

COMMON MARKET FOR EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA



COMESA Regional Livestock and Pastoralism Forum

Introduction

Pastoralism is the predominant livelihood and production system in the arid and semi-arid areas. It is estimated that the arid and semi-arid areas of the Greater Horn of Africa (GHA) is home to over 25 million pastoralists (Kenya 4 million, Ethiopia 5 million; Uganda 2 million, Sudan 7 Million and Somali 7 million) of which 72% of which resides with in COMESA region. Under the current situation, pastoralism offers the best land use system in drylands. Pastoral system in the GHA accounts for 23% of the livestock population in COMESA region and 10% of the continent.

Livestock population in Pastoral areas of COMESA Region

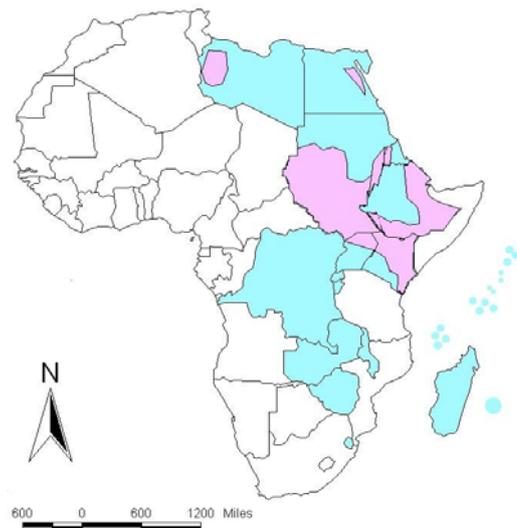
Resources	Number	% of COMESA	% of Africa
Cattle	25,930,332	19	10
Goats	25,392,381	25	10
Sheep	27,885,499	28	11
Camel	7,433,900	98	40

Source: Calculated based on Thornton et al 2002

Besides providing meat, milk, blood, hides and skin, pastoralism is the only form of employment in arid and semi-arid areas. Besides providing the nutritional, social and cultural needs of the population, livestock contributes immensely to national economies – between 17 and 58% of the agricultural GDP in GHA (Uganda – 17%; Ethiopia - 40%; Kenya – 50% and Sudan 58%). The meat supply from the pastoral production system is estimated with in a range of 4% to 99% (Djibouti 99%,

Eritrea 52%, Ethiopia 14%, Kenya 36%, Sudan 46% and Uganda 4%).

Pastoral and Agro-pastoral areas in COMESA Region



Livestock is an important foreign currency earning for most of the countries in the GHA, for example in Ethiopia and Uganda this accounts to 10% and 8% respectively. Other indirect economic contribution of pastoralism includes tourism (e.g. in Kenya and Uganda it contributes 12% and 9% of the total GDP respectively).

Pastoralism provides a means of livelihood to millions of poor livestock keepers in arid and semi-arid areas. It's contribution to national GDP and foreign currency earnings is rarely acknowledged by the government. Instead, pastoralism is subjected to myths and

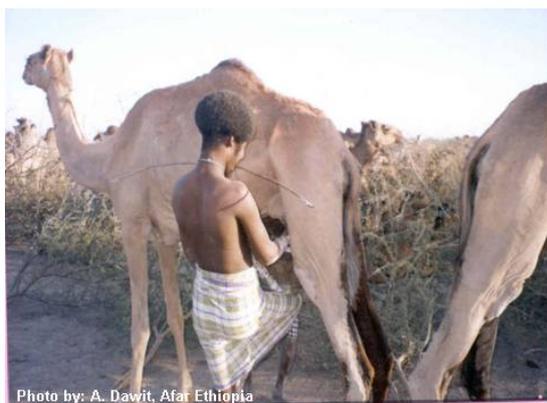
misunderstandings which led to inappropriate development policies and interventions.



Consequently, governments failed to invest and develop pastoral production system in arid and semi-arid making pastoralists perpetually dependent on emergency assistance.

AU/NEPAD has designed a Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) as a strategic framework for boosting agricultural productivity and economic growth, there by to cut poverty in half by year 2015.

In the world around 560 million livestock keepers live in extreme poverty, of which around 40 million are pastoralists / agro-pastoralists with the incidence of poverty reaching around 30 percent, which is the highest compared to the other livestock production system such as mixed rainfed and mixed irrigated production systems.



With out appropriate investment and development intervention in the drylands it is difficult to achieve the set poverty reduction goal. In order to reduce poverty level in pastoral areas it requires policy support and It is predicted that in Africa growth in the consumption and production of meat, and milk will exceeded other developing regions.

investment in mobile livestock system as the most viable and sustainable system.

Myths and Misunderstanding of Pastoralism

- Pastoralism is an archaic form of production, whose time has passed and needs to be modernized. Pastoralism has very low productivity – sedentary cattle raising is more productive than mobile systems. Research shows that mobile pastoral system has 3-10 times the economic return per hectare than ranching system under similar condition.
- Mobility is inherently backward, unnecessary, chaotic and disruptive. Pastoral mobility is a rational response to the scattered and uncertain distribution of natural resources. Movement allows efficient use of natural resources, and is a sophisticated adaptation to the challenges of uncertain and harsh environment. It has also economic and social reasons.
- Most rangelands are degraded as a result of pastoral overgrazing. Grazing like other uses, may cause a change in the plant species composition of rangelands, but evidence of widespread rangeland degradation under pastoral grazing is not strong.

Danger of overgrazing and rangeland degradation is evident in areas where livestock concentrate such as permanent settlement areas, water points
- Pastoralism contributes little to national economy. The economic contribution of extensive nomadic pastoral livelihood systems to GDP and exports is high. However, these benefits are not captured in the national statistics, and aggregated to other livestock production system.
- All conflicts are caused by pastoralists. Conflict are often due to policies that support different land uses system such as irrigation, opportunistic farming, settlement, establishment of national parks at the expense of traditional pastoral land use system.

Source: Pastoralism and mobility in the drylands. The Global Drylands Imperative, UNDP

Consequently, the livestock Revolution presents an opportunity for livestock-driven poverty reduction in Africa.

In view of this under CAADP Pillar III, COMESA will develop a regional policy on food security in pastoralist areas. In order to start the development of this policy, COMESA is working with various stakeholders.

An early action of this initiative started under the Regional Enhanced Livelihoods in Pastoral Areas (RELPA) programme implemented in pastoral areas of the GHA.

COMESA will set up a Regional Livestock and Pastoralism Forum that will serve as the broad, consultative groups through which COMESA can benefit from the wide diversity of actors and experiences related to pastoralism and livestock development in the region. Consultation with these actors should inform the policy process under all CAADP pillars as it relates to arid and semi-arid areas, and more on pastoralism food security policy process under Pillar III.

The forum would be convened by COMESA and the secretariat support could be provided by Pastoral Area Coordination, Analysis, Policy Support (PACAPS) – one component of RELP, in the short-term, with COMESA taking over after PACAPS.

Specific TOR of the Forum

- Provide COMESA with information on pastoralism and livestock issues, and stakeholder opinions on priorities for regional policy development
- Provide a forum through which COMESA can propose policy and programming options, and seek feedback from stakeholders on the relevance and likely impact of such options

The design of the forum:

- Forum meetings should be targeted at specific issues and aim to provide COMESA with insights and information on the issue in question. It follows that the composition of the forum should be strategic and will vary according to the topic of a particular forum meeting e.g. a forum dealing with cross-border trade should bring together Stakeholders dealing with or experienced on cross-border trade issues.



- Despite the need for flexibility outlined above, the forum could comprise a group of core actors. In addition to COMESA itself, these actors might be other relevant African organizations (e.g. AU, IGAD, EAC, regional trade associations or similar) plus key development partners (e.g. donors with particular interest in or commitment to livestock and pastoralism – USAID EU, AfDB, DFID, SIDA). UN agencies such as FAO, UNDP, UN-OCHA, would also be invited as appropriate. The core group should be small and manageable.
- COMESA has identified a particular need to engage representatives of pastoralist communities and private sector stakeholders in policy dialogue



The issues to be addressed in forum meetings would be identified in consultation with stakeholders, as would the composition of the forum for specific issues in question.