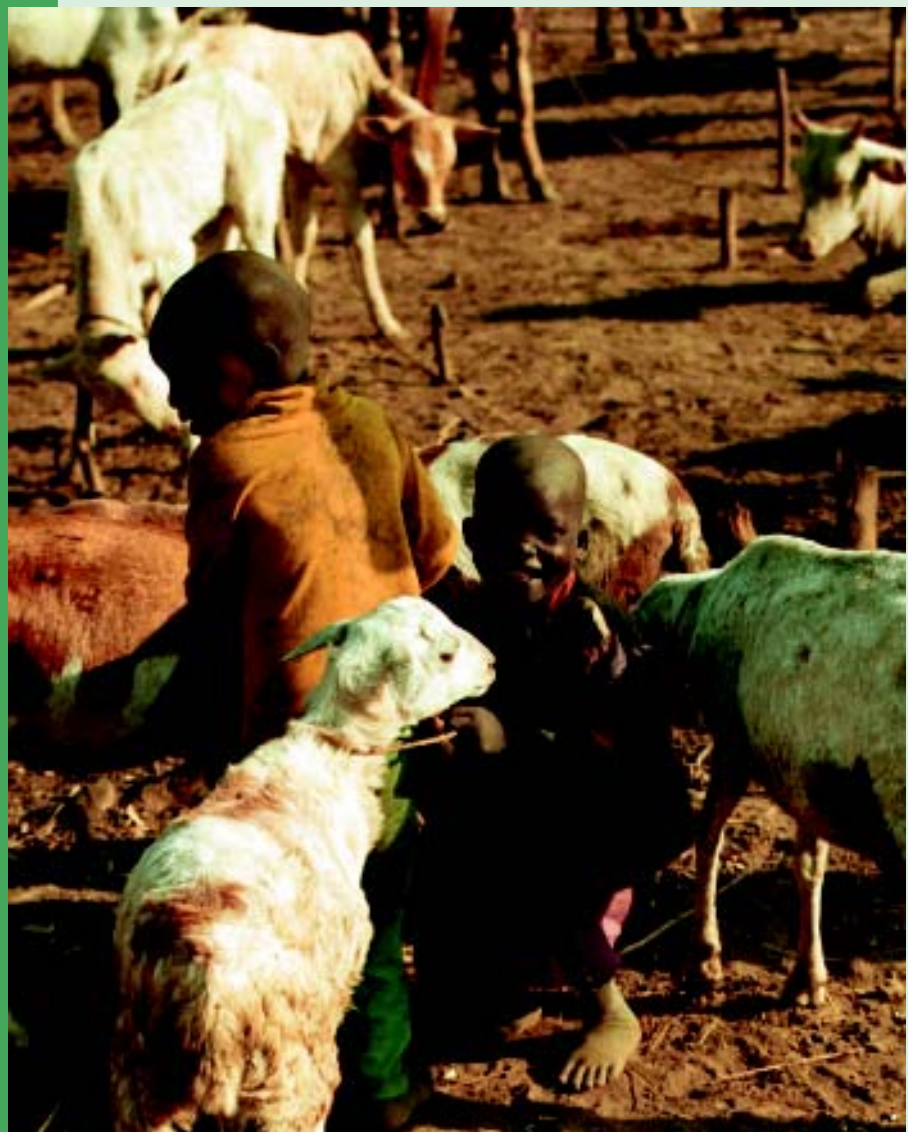


Africa Needs Animals

Policy
Briefing
Paper
no. 1



African countries are agricultural countries. Agriculture employs over two thirds of the labour force, provides subsistence for most of the population, is a major source of foreign exchange and is the single biggest contributor to Gross Domestic Product (GDP)¹.

Within the agriculture sector in Africa, livestock comprise one third of agricultural value and involve 80% of the rural population. However, the livestock sub-sector receives < 10% of government agricultural spending and < 1 % of total government expenditure.

The Contribution of Livestock

Land Use

Arid and semi-arid lands cover 55% of sub-Saharan Africa's surface area. This land would produce no human food if not grazed by animals. In wetter areas livestock maintain soil fertility and biodiversity.

Livestock manure improves crop yield as well as the best chemical fertilisers. Also, much arable land is ploughed by draft animals and draft power makes up one third of the total value of the livestock sector².

Livelihoods

In most African countries over 75% of people keep livestock. In fact, some 70 million people depend almost entirely on livestock for subsistence, income, and social and cultural needs.

Livestock production is expanding rapidly around cities. In sub-Saharan Africa there are 30 million urban farmers, many of whom rear livestock.

For every 100kg of meat produced from livestock, 100kg of animal by-products are generated. African livestock provide hides, wool, horn, glues, feeds, fertilisers and pharmaceutical products.

Health and Nutrition

Meat, milk and eggs are high quality foods and provide essential nutrients, especially for children. On average, people in sub-Saharan Africa obtain over 20% of daily protein needs and nearly 10% of daily energy needs from livestock products³. For some communities, such as pastoralists, dependence on livestock-derived foods is far higher. Livestock proteins are more digestible and of higher biological value than plant proteins.

Exports

Over 90% of African countries export livestock and livestock products. This earns nearly a billion dollars a year⁴. Unofficial exports are probably double official.

Wildlife

In parts of West Africa bushmeat provides over half the animal protein eaten by rural people⁵. Wildlife is central to African tourism, which is worth around \$7 billion dollars and is growing at 5% per annum⁶.

Animals Matter to Africa

- The pastoralist sector in Kenya is worth USD 800 million and internal livestock trade is worth USD 40 to 80 million a year.
- Livestock in Botswana contribute 88% of the total agricultural output.
- In Chad livestock makes up over 1/3 of exports and is the major source of livelihood for 40% of the population.
- Hides and skins make up over 10% of the export earnings of Burkina Faso, Eritrea and Ethiopia.
- In Cote d'Ivoire the annual consumption of bushmeat was twice that of meat from livestock and the value was estimated at CFA 77 billion - nearly 2% of GDP.
- In Somalia around 60% of the population are pastoralists and 25% are agropastoralists.
- Nearly one third of households in and around Kampala keep livestock, including pigs and chickens.
- Integration of livestock and crops is crucial to agricultural production in the Ethiopian and Eritrean highlands where oxen are required for ploughing.
- With 16% of the world's camels, Sudan produces 87,000 tonnes of camel meat a year and is the major African exporter of camel meat to Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Gulf States.

Growth Linkages

In the last century African governments emphasised industrialisation. Food prices were kept low to help cities and industry, and high exchange rates encouraged food imports and discouraged food exports. While agriculture stagnated, industry also failed to take off. Decades of discrimination against agriculture left African countries with declining GDPs and human development status, and increasing poverty and import reliance⁷. In some countries, up to 46%

of agricultural GDP was diverted each year to non-agricultural sectors.

It is now believed that countries with substantial rural populations, significant growth will not occur unless the agricultural sector is involved. Countries with high agriculture growth have high over all economic growth, while countries with stagnant agriculture have low overall growth⁸.

Where agriculture growth >3%, GDP growth >5%
Where agriculture growth <1%, GDP growth <3%

Direct beneficiaries of agricultural development spend most of their additional income locally and in growth promoting ways: the multiplier effect. In Africa, one dollar to farm income has been shown to increase overall incomes by another 2-3 dollars⁹. The livestock sector has especially strong multiplier effects because of the many backward and forward growth linkages with other income generating activities in the service and manufacturing sectors.

Trends for the Future

Livestock is growing faster than any other agricultural sub-sector. By 2020 it will produce about 30% of the value of global agricultural output and, directly or indirectly, use 80% of the world's agricultural land. Globally, livestock will become the most important agricultural subsector in terms of value added and land use¹⁰.

The next 20 years will see an additional half a billion consumers of livestock products in Africa. Most of these people will be urban consumers and town dwellers eat more livestock products. In countries with low (but rising) incomes, meat consumption grows faster than income. The combination of rising population, rising per capita consumption and urbanisation means Africa will require an additional 100 million tonnes of livestock products over the next 20 years¹¹.

Key Messages

- Livestock supplies African people with food and power
- Livestock drives African economies and exports
- Livestock underpins African agriculture, service and manufacturing sectors.
- Livestock is a 'sunrise' sector, with a rapidly expanding market and a bright future

Endnotes

¹ See paper presented to the Agreement On Agriculture paper for a synopsis of the importance of agriculture to developing countries. The contribution of livestock to agricultural GDP is estimated at 25% for sub-Saharan countries - this does not take into account manure and traction which according to ILRI increase this figure to around 35%. See ILRI publication Livestock and resource management policy: Issues and priorities for research. Proceedings of the Research Planning Workshop held at ILCA, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 24-27 March 1992. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

² For papers and information on the importance of draft power see ATNESA publications and Performance and Nutritional Management of Draught Cattle in Smallholder Farming in Zimbabwe, published by the University of Zimbabwe (Ndlovu and Francis)

³ CAST

⁴ Data was compiled for 48 African countries with populations over 1 million from FAOSTAT and averaged over 3 years (1996, 1997, 1998). There are major discrepancies between FAOSTAT and Eurostat, so these figures should be seen as indicative only.

⁵ The importance of wildlife to African economies and people are comprehensively analysed in the 2 volume EC published 'African Wildlife the Forgotten Resource' and more succinctly in Wildlife and Food Security in Africa, FAO Conservation Guide 33. More recent studies indicate that much of the trade in bushmeat as currently carried out is unsustainable. The figures for West Africa are taken from Wildlife Utilisation in West Africa: potentials and constraint for Development Co-operation published by the GTZ Tropical Ecology Support Programme

⁶ Tourism is significant (>2%GDP) to 30 African countries and for some (Kenya, South Africa and Zimbabwe) is a major source of foreign exchange). Global tourism is predicted to triple by 2020. The trends and impacts of globalisation are discussed in ILO Human resources development, employment and globalization in the hotel, catering and tourism sector, while relevance of tourism for SSA is taken from the World Bank literature.

⁷ After independence many African states followed policies of import substitution and industrialisation. Enormous amounts of money were transferred from the agriculture sector to the nascent manufacturing (amounting to 46% of agricultural GDP pa) After rapid initial growth the manufacturing sector slumped into deep crisis characterized by lack of competitiveness, low profitability and heavy losses. By the early 80's industry was contributing around zero to GDP. Meir and Steel summarised the problems as follows 'Over expansion of industrial capacity relative to agricultural production and to the ability of the economy to sustain that capacity; Overextension of public ownership relative to the economic justification for direct public investment and to the government's financial and managerial capacity to operate industries efficiently; Over investment in import-substitution industries relative to domestic demand and to the export industries needed to generate more foreign exchange earnings; Over investment in final-stage consumer goods relative to investment in the processing of raw material and in intermediate and capital goods industries needed to increase linkages with the rest of the economy'

⁸ World bank study of countries where agriculture contributes to over 20% of GDP

⁹ For Delgado

¹⁰ World Bank 2001 Livestock Development Implications for Rural Poverty, the Environment, and Global Food Security

¹¹ The largest effect of a \$1 increase in income on consumption occurs in countries with the lowest level of meat consumption and income. Schroeder, Barkeley and Schroeder, 1995 quoted in 2020 vision.

The Organization for African Unity/Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources

The Organization for African Unity/Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (OAU/IBAR) is a specialist technical agency of the OAU mandated by member states to promote livestock development in Africa. Based in Nairobi, Kenya, OAU/IBAR implements major livestock development programmes including the Pan African Programme for the Control of Epizootics (PACE) and Farming in Tsetse Controlled Areas of Africa (FITCA).

The objectives of OAU/IBAR are to:

- Co-ordinate activities of all OAU member states in the field of Animal Health and Production
- Collect, collate and disseminate information in all aspects of Animal Health and Production
- Initiate, develop and execute projects in the field of Animal Health and Production
- Liase with appropriate authorities of member states, regional groups, inter-governmental and international organisations.

For many years, OAU/IBAR has been African success story by attracting donor funds and providing technical and policy support to the member states, particularly state veterinary services. In the new millennium, the bureau understands that livestock issues are becoming increasingly complex due to forces such as globalisation, rapid technological advances and the demands of stakeholders. Stakeholders at all levels are becoming more vocal, influential and involved in governance, priority setting, financing and evaluation of development interventions. OAU/IBAR provides effective responses by having a clear vision of its direction, policy and strategies.

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The Policy Briefing Paper Series

This series of Policy Briefing Papers aims to provide short and easy-to-read introductions to some of the key policy issues affecting the livestock sector in Africa. In particular they show how livestock can contribute to the following widely held policy objectives:

- Food security
- Economic growth
- Equity
- Export promotion
- Revenue generation
- Resource conservation

Each briefing paper provides an overview of an issue and directs readers to source documents (many produced by OAU/IBAR) where further information and more detailed analysis can be found.