



EVALUATION OF SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY (SPS) TRADE POLICY CONSTRAINTS WITHIN THE MAIZE AND LIVESTOCK/ANIMAL-SOURCED PRODUCTS VALUE CHAINS IN EAST AFRICA

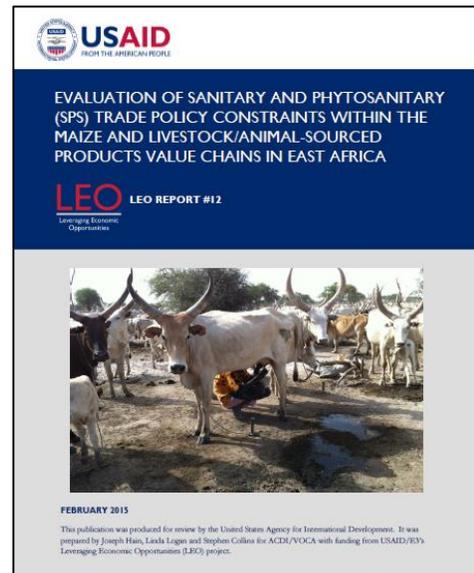
SUMMARY BRIEF I: LIVESTOCK

USAID’s Bureau for Food Security commissioned the study *Evaluation of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Trade Policy Constraints within the Maize and Livestock/Animal-Sourced Products Value Chains in East Africa* through the *Leveraging Economic Opportunities (LEO)* project¹. The study is one of three regional assessments carried out in East, Southern, and West Africa regions to identify key SPS-related constraints to trade within priority Feed the Future value chains, in order to gauge opportunities for potential SPS-related investments. The East Africa study targeted four countries: Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda. This brief identifies and details major *trade impacts* of SPS issues in East Africa.

SPS issues have emerged as key regional concerns as tariff liberalization within the East African Community (EAC) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) has made free trade in staple foods and livestock a reality. The East African livestock value chain is faced with a number of constraints including inadequate availability of animal feed stuffs and a heavy burden of animal diseases which require more intensive and targeted SPS interventions through support to animal health programs throughout the livestock value chain.

LIVESTOCK VALUE CHAIN OVERVIEW

Animal agriculture contributes significantly to the economies of countries in the Horn of Africa. Livestock accounts for 35 percent of agricultural GDP and 30 percent of foreign exchange in the region. Demand for meat and livestock products is expected to grow rapidly in East Africa, heightening the importance of resolving systemic weakness in livestock value chains that hamper trade, including limited availability of feed materials and losses and poor weight gains due to animal diseases. While there is vigorous movement of livestock within each country, there is little trade between EAC countries, with the traditional livestock flows coming from IGAD countries to the north, particularly Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan. Much of livestock trade is informal as traders seek to avoid high tariffs, border delays and required documentation.



¹ For more information on LEO, and to access the full studies for East, West, and Southern Africa, visit www.microlinks.org/leo.

Livestock can play a pivotal role in feeding poor people and providing economic stability for the Horn of Africa. Animal source foods provide critical protein for diets, and are rich in micronutrients such as vitamin A, vitamin B12, riboflavin, calcium, iron and zinc, which are vital to the growth and development of children. In order to achieve its potential, the overall livestock value chain must become more efficient, and this will require both nutritional and animal disease control interventions.

MAJOR SPS AND TRADE ISSUES IN THE LIVESTOCK VALUE CHAIN

Disease Control and Prevention

The East African livestock value chain is faced with a number of constraints with the biggest being the huge burden of animal diseases (SPS). Kenya livestock production is historically affected by several livestock diseases that lead to high death losses in young stock, preventing their entrance into the livestock value chain. Tick-borne diseases and trypanosomiasis have been problems in pastoralist areas, but more devastating to European breeds of cattle. Accurate and timely surveillance is critical for early detection, identification and monitoring of disease progression in a particular area. Currently disease surveillance and reporting is poor and irregular, with most countries having a low reporting rate of outbreaks from the field level. That figure is even below five percent for pastoral and agro-pastoral areas. Moreover, the sensitivity, specificity and timeliness of the reports are very low and can interfere with livestock trade if outbreaks of disease go unreported. Much of this is due to lack of funds and manpower to execute disease surveillance programs.

Lack of Supportive Livestock Policies and Legislation

Agricultural and livestock policies need to be adopted that support the establishment of efficient and affordable veterinary services through financial support as well as policy support to utilize private veterinary services to deal with private good disease issues as well as through veterinary accreditation to assist with public good disease control programs such as Brucellosis and tuberculosis. There is a need to support privatization of veterinary services for programs dealing with private management issues such as control of some important production diseases, e.g., mastitis, bacterial pneumonias and foot rot. Policies should also enhance increased investment by the regional government in pastoral livestock production, and productivity to ensure sustained supply of good quality livestock to the growing cross-border market without depleting the livestock resource base. Investments in value additions such as animal health interventions and supplemental feed, as well as livestock product processing facilities, could provide additional marketing outlets to pastoralist herders.

Lack of Data Collection Systems to Inform Policy Making

There is an overriding need to develop a system for data collection on cross-border livestock trade so as to enable evidence-based policy dialogue. Where livestock policies have been formulated, they tend to be based on insufficient information and analysis, and are generally formulated without participation from key stakeholders, most notably the poor and the private sector.

SPS INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Policy Harmonization for Livestock Disease

It is important to harmonize cross-border livestock trade activities and animal health operations. It is also critically important to harmonize animal health interventions to minimize transboundary diseases that affect sales at the terminal markets in the Gulf Countries. This will require working with the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), (Intergovernmental Authority on Development, (IGAD), Chief Veterinary Offices (CVOs), and key veterinary working groups from the region to support both policy formulation and implementation. AU-IBAR enjoys unique convening power, and is a critical instrument for

advocacy; it is able to bring together animal resources policies and decision-makers from the AU member states, including at ministerial level or higher. This means it is very well placed to translate technical recommendations into national, regional and continent-wide policies and practices. Specific recommendations include:

- Develop 5 priority disease standards methods and procedures for animal health (SMP-AHs)
- Develop SMP (for animal quarantine management and disease control and trade)
- Work with RECS (regional economic communities) to get uniform adaption of the SMP-Ahs across all regions of Africa
- Capacity building to support implementation of the program for stakeholders especially at country levels

Modernize Veterinary Services Legislation to Support Policy

Ethiopia as well as most other East African countries does not have autonomous statutory body to regulate the veterinary profession, license and register veterinary surgeons and veterinary practitioners, and regulate professional education and professional conduct. For instance, veterinary programs are being established in new universities, but they lack appropriate curriculum to adequately prepare students for licensing and operating as a veterinarian. Development of models for federal state cooperation and authority on public good and private good livestock disease issues is needed. Specific recommendations include:

- Facilitate the delineation of tasks and geographical areas between private and public veterinary services and outline roles of private vets vs government vets
- Establish or update autonomous statutory body to regulate the veterinary profession, license and register veterinary surgeons and veterinary practitioners, and regulate professional conduct
- Create an annual Veterinary Faculty Dean's Forum attended by all Deans to discuss harmonization of veterinary educational standards, curriculum development, veterinary service needs and related issues
- Introduce some form of international benchmarking for undergraduate veterinary education
- Develop and enforce guidelines and code of conduct for public and private veterinary services practitioners and para-veterinarians
- Institute a system of awarding points for continuing education and make this mandatory for veterinarians in both the government and private sectors

Establish Livestock Disease Surveillance Programs

It is important to build viable disease surveillance programs starting at the producer level by developing training manuals for marginally literate communities of livestock keepers. These would include production diseases of livestock diseases of poultry, camels, sheep and goats and swine. Training of veterinary field personnel including animal health workers where appropriate, and livestock producers will increase reporting of diseases. This could include disease risk management training preferably at regional workshops to enable veterinarians from different countries to become colleagues and increase communications and cooperation. Finally, it will be necessary to work to harmonize regional approaches to livestock pests and disease monitoring surveillance and control is important. Specific recommendations include:

- Promote syndromic surveillance by providing producer and community animal health worker training using AU-IBAR manuals for syndromic surveillance
- Build effective epidemiology units in each country by strengthen and providing capacity building for federal and regional epidemiology units with adequate staff, facilities and equipment

- Expand the information system by including data coming from veterinary laboratories, abattoirs and quarantine stations
- Strengthen feedback system to regions and districts through newsletters, bulletins, year books, websites etc.
- Promote use of participatory Diseases Surveillance (PDS) in disease investigation
- Develop and enforce guidelines for veterinary information and disease outbreak reporting systems including obligations of private practitioners from village to national level
- Introduce new technologies such as digital pen and mobile phones to enhance the quality of reporting

Strengthen SPS Laboratories to Support Surveillance, Trade and Food Safety

SPS laboratories for animal disease diagnosis, analysis of food safety pathogens and toxins and monitoring of pesticides and veterinary drug residue need to be strengthened. To achieve this frameworks need to be developed that support each country to adopt international standards of testing. Additionally, there is a need for laboratory certification services equipped with highly trained core of professionals. Support to laboratories should be given to develop plans for fee based services that have political support so funds do not go back to the treasury but to the service laboratory. Specific recommendations include:

- Establish a laboratory quality management system involving proficiency testing and third-party accreditation
- Develop an effective Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) involving both federal and regional veterinary laboratories
- Capacitate national and regional laboratories to meet the growing demand for export testing and disease surveillance
- Collect and stock filed isolates of important pathogens for genetic sequencing and production of effective vaccines
- Maintain close working relations and linkage between national laboratories and world reference laboratories (OIE/FAO)

Improve Livestock Disease Control

Specific recommendations to improve disease control using quality vaccines and veterinary drugs include the following:

- Support Ministries of Agriculture in establishment of a quality analytical lab and regulatory system to control entry of veterinary drugs into the country and quality assurance
- Develop feed safety testing facility Collaborate with Pan African Vaccine Centre (PANVAC) for quality control of veterinary vaccines
- Review each countries veterinary vaccine facility as to output and develop a strategic plan to increase vaccine production and quality for poultry and ruminants in countries who already have capacity
- Timely establishment of the authority to regulate the importation, production, distribution and use of veterinary drugs and biological
- Develop analytical capacity to undertake chemical tests to determine the nature, contents, quality, quantity or potency of veterinary drugs and biological
- Establish Laboratory Quality Management System in the analytical lab and secure third party accreditation
- Reduce availability of substandard and illegally marketed animal drugs

Protect Consumers and Export Markets Through Establishment of an African Food Safety Authority

The role and importance of food safety as one of the SPS triads is often overlooked and underappreciated by governments and regulatory bodies in East Africa. AU is developing a framework for a new Food Safety Directorate. Working with African Union IBAR (Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources) development partners could support harmonized realistic policies for the RECs to help countries implement improved food safety practices. Additionally, capacity building is needed for food safety laboratories, to include basic training in food hygiene, meat inspection, food safety risk assessment and surveillance methods. A well-planned food safety capacity building program could constitute a sound approach to assisting East Africa improve food safety practices and provide safe food and feed. Specific recommendations include:

- Review AU-IBAR proposal for food safety authority and fund.
- Conduct capacity building workshops on best practices in food safety and abattoir management
- Codex workshop for animal health and human health country authorities involved with veterinary public health and human health.

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