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# **A Summarized Review of the Status of Livestock Production and Stocking in Zambia**

**Submitted to the Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture,  
Lands and Natural Resources**

**By**

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## **Areas of Focus**

- a) Adequacy of the legal and policy framework governing the livestock sector.
- b) Incentives available to the livestock farmers for production of livestock and trans-boundary disease transmission.
- c) The adequacy and availability of extension services for the livestock industry.
- d) Livestock distribution and marketing.
- e) The challenges facing the livestock sector.
- f) Recommendations on how the livestock sector can be improved.

## **1.0 Data Sources and Methodology**

Two methods were utilized:

- A consultative process was undertaken with all of Musika's technical personnel that are stationed in various regional offices nationwide.
- Information was also gathered from internally generated research papers as well as external agencies such as IAPRI, The National Assembly of Zambia, MoA, MoF and MFL among others.

## 2.0 Overview of the Legal and policy Framework Governing the Livestock

### 2.1 Policy Environment

- A conducive policy and regulatory environment is critical for the development and sustainability of any industry. The MFL is yet to finalize the development of a specific livestock policy to govern the sector, therefore, it relies on policy guidelines adapted from broader policy documents and national strategic instruments to develop programs i.e. Vision 2030, R-SNDP- 2013 to 2016.
- Realignment of sector's objective following the launch of the 7NDP 2017-2021 in June, 2017, other policy documents include the SNAP 2016-2020 which provides a consolidated policy framework designed to guide the development of the agricultural sector in particular, and the National Agricultural Investment Plan (NAIP) 2014-2018 crafted under the CAADP framework, which seeks to identify and prioritize investment areas that can accelerate agricultural productivity growth.

### 2.2 Legal Environment

- The key regulatory instruments governing the livestock sector are primarily concerned with regulating animal health issues, the conduct of veterinary professionals and supporting institutions, livestock products as well as identification and traceability issues.

### 2.3 Sector Financing

- In 2017, the budget to the livestock and fisheries sub-sector reduced to K642.7 million from K708.5 million in 2016. This represented a 9% decrease in nominal terms.
- A comparison between the budget allocation and actual funds released to the livestock and fisheries sub-sectors paints a grim picture. Even though the total funds disbursed for budgeted activities had increased in 2017 to 37% from 17% in 2016.

### 2.4 Recommendations

- *Need for a livestock policy and completion of regulatory provisions*
  - The policy initiatives currently governing the sector are fragmented. There is need for the MFL to finalize the development of a livestock policy.

- Some of the legal provisions governing the livestock sector have not been sufficiently implemented and while others face enforcement issues. The Animal Health Act and Veterinary and Para professions Act still have no regulations approved yet and have not put in place a Veterinary Council for almost 3 years to implement Part III to Part VII of the act.
- Regulation of veterinary medicines has also been a challenge. This has led to an increase in illegal “agrovet shops”.
- ***Enhance implementation of programs that improve market access, private sector participation and value addition***
  - The operating policy guidelines emphasize the need to enhance market access, private sector participation and value addition within the livestock sub-sector and agricultural sector as a whole. However, these objectives have not been translated into well-coordinated implementation plans.
- ***Access to financing***
  - Policy initiatives have been silent on facilitating access to finance and credit for livestock farmers. It is important that the policy objective contained in the SNAP 2016-2020 to promote credit delivery systems through programs such as Savings Groups and Credit Cooperatives deliberately target livestock farmers as well.
- ***Gender mainstreaming***
  - Evidence has shown that there is low female ownership of high value livestock type. Current policies have no strategy on how women’s access to and control of high value livestock animals can be enhanced.
- ***Budgetary allocations***
  - The subsector received only about 37% of the total budget allocation to the MFL in 2017. Agriculture budget allocation has been below the CAADP target of 10 %, falling short of the Malabo declaration of 2014.

### 3. Disease Prevention and Control Mechanisms Available to Control Trans-Boundary Disease Transmission

#### 3.1 Regulatory Mechanisms

- At present, the two main mechanisms used to prevent and control Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs) are dipping/spraying and vaccinations. Other mechanisms

include the placement of control points at strategic geographical locations, through which inspections of animals moving from one area to another are conducted.

- The Animal Health Act No 27, of 2010 and other allied statutes are the basis for all the mechanisms employed to control and prevent the transmission of transboundary diseases. The Statutory Instrument (SI) No 24 of 2014 on compulsory dipping and vaccination makes it a requirement for farmers to dip and vaccinate their animals, however, enforcement of the SI has been challenging. This is because not all livestock farmers have access to dip tanks/spray facilities.
- Smallholder production is still largely traditional.

### **3.2 Access to Veterinary Drugs and Services**

- The veterinary department provides farmers with access to veterinary drugs and services. About 44.5% of livestock farmers access veterinary drugs and services from government sources. In addition, the private sector has also played a pivotal role in providing livestock farmers with access to veterinary drugs and services that aid in the prevention and control of diseases including TADs.
- However, the operating environment at the community level has unfortunately not been very supportive of private veterinarians. This is because public veterinary staff commonly provide private services.

### **3.3 Outcomes**

- All these efforts have yielded mixed results. An analysis of smallholder households affected by livestock diseases showed a reduction of 17% between 2012 and 2015 for cattle and chicken owning households.
- Some regulatory requirements have led to inefficiencies. For instance, the distribution of vaccines for notifiable diseases such as Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP) and Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) is only permitted by public veterinary staff, however, this process has been under-funded, sporadic and reactive and has led to negative consequences.

### **3.4 Recommendations**

- ***Improving Farmers Access to Dipping Infrastructure Alone is Not Enough***
  - The livestock department has continued to develop and rehabilitate dipping sites around the country, however, the mere provision of these dipping sites is not sufficient. These efforts need to be accompanied by extension messages that provide farmers with the technical knowledge.
- ***Quicken the construction of regional laboratories***
  - The government has been slow to complete the construction of regional laboratories used to test for livestock disease. In addition, some existing laboratories constructed do not have the capacity to test for all the diseases and therefore rely on the laboratory services in Lusaka.
- ***Government to facilitate and encourage production of vet drugs locally***
  - Government should encourage the local production of veterinary drugs by providing incentives to veterinary firms manufacturing them.

#### 4. The Adequacy and Availability of Extension Services for the Livestock Industry.

##### **4.1 Public Extension Services**

- The provision of extension services to farmers continues to be inadequate. The MFL 2015 Annual Progress report cited low levels of frontline staff especially in the old districts.

##### **4.2 Private Extension Services**

- The private sector is beginning to play an increasing role in the provision of extension services in the livestock sector. Firms such as Vet 24, Silverlands Ranching Ltd, LVSCC and others provide extension services to farmers at the community level as part of their commercial marketing strategy.

##### **4.3 Recommendations**

- ***Encourage Provision of Private Extension Services***
  - Given the resource constraints faced by the livestock department, it is critical that efforts are made to find alternative sources of resources. The private sector has the

potential to bridge the gap in extension service provision, therefore, deliberate efforts that encourage the participation of the private sector in extension service provision should be developed.

- ***Conduct Research and Mapping of Public and Private Extension Services***
  - There is need to conduct a study to understand the extent to which the mode and quality of extension service provision has improved livestock production practices amongst farmers. Anecdotal data suggests that there has been little or no change in the livestock production methods employed by farmers.
- ***Realign Staffing Criteria for Extension Personnel to Prioritize Areas with High Livestock Population***
  - Like many other sectors in Zambia, the level of financing to the livestock sector is critically low. This implies that there is an inadequate fiscal framework to support an increment in staffing levels for extension personnel. According to the MFL, staffing considerations seem to favour the newly created districts as opposed to allocating the limited resources in a way that is more likely to maximise returns.

## 5. Livestock Distribution, Marketing and Incentives

### 5.1 Livestock Marketing

- Livestock markets are predominantly unorganised (MFL, Musika). The sector has two types of markets, these being formal and informal markets. Informal markets are more common, and they are characterized by traders who buy live animals from the farm gate or local markets.
- In terms of government initiatives regarding livestock marketing, not much has been done. This is because the livestock marketing department under the MFL was recently formed and has only been operational for a year.
- At the farmer level, the low levels of productivity amongst livestock farmers has provided disincentives for the major players, who fail to establish a stable supply in most of the areas.
- The market for other livestock products such as milk and eggs remains largely untapped.

### 5.2 Livestock Distribution

- The spatial distribution of livestock in Zambia has been highly shaped by tradition and culture with Southern, Eastern and Western provinces having the highest livestock population.
- However, it should be noted that there is a significant lack of empirical data on different aspects of livestock production and distribution. Initiatives are currently being developed to conduct a livestock census that would provide a comprehensive data base of various livestock information.

### **5.3 Incentives for Livestock Production**

- There are a number of factors that present incentives for livestock production. The recent adjustment to the E-voucher program expands the provision of subsidies to include veterinary products.
- The expansion of off-take markets for other livestock products such as milk is increasing farmers' access to diversified income opportunities i.e. Parmalat and Zambeef have developed milk collection centres into new geographical markets.
- Despite this, the majority of the livestock farmers producing various livestock types such as cattle, goats, village chickens and others have limited access to markets that are able to deliver value added services such as market information and incentives for quality. Furthermore, there is an uneven playing field where the smaller, less formal abattoirs or processors manage to circumvent public health and veterinary provisions and requirements, which are applied vigorously to the larger players.

### **5.4 Recommendations**

- Promote private sector participation in the procurement of livestock products such as milk by providing tax incentives to firms purchasing milk storage or processing equipment.
- Conduct research initiatives on livestock marketing to ensure wide understanding of livestock marketing issues.
- Government and private sector players should promote animal nutrition initiatives such as supplementary feeding, farm-level feedlots, and other aspects of animal nutrition to increase the productivity of individual animals.

**For full report please click: <http://www.musika.org.zm/images/Research/A-Review-of-the-Status-of-Livestock-Production-and-Stocking-in-Zambia.pdf>**