

INTRODUCTION

The AU-IBAR is undertaking a Market Information Systems audit on the state of livestock market information systems in Africa. Specifically, the study seeks to:

- i. Identify current and future priorities in terms of information, infrastructure, skills and technology, and related services
- ii. Conduct a SWOT analysis for examining Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats of existing Market Information Systems;
- iii. Assess infrastructure capabilities and knowledge resources;
- iv. Undertake a knowledge inventory analysis by identifying the explicit or physical MIS
- v. Identify gaps between available infrastructure and needed capacities based on regional livestock market priorities and capitalize on strengths or make improvements.



Market Information Systems Audit on the State of Livestock Market Information Systems in Africa

STUDY APPROACH

The study will be broadly guided by the Live2Africa's Theory of change (ToC).

The consultant has adopted a highly consultative and participatory approach that allows for the collection and analysis of both qualitative and quantitative data through triangulation of information sources. The approach is aimed at meeting the expectations of the AU-IBAR while providing an independent and objective assessment of market information systems in the livestock sectors of five regional economic communities (RECs)^[1] of the African continent.

The consultant seeks to undertake a systems requirement study by examining information, infrastructure, skills and technology, and related services that make up the livestock market systems in the RECs.

Since it will not be possible to freely travel to the different RECs and respective countries to collect primary and secondary data, the consultant will obtain data virtually.

[1] Eastern Africa, Central Africa, Northern Africa, Southern Africa, Western Africa

This proposed data collection approach has considered issues of limited budget and COVID-19 regulations and guidelines. An appropriate key informant interview guide has been developed for soliciting comprehensive and relevant data and information for the development of the MIS audit report.

VALUE CHAIN IDENTIFICATION & PRIORITISATION

The study will focus on five regional livestock value chains identified and prioritized during a consensus building exercise conducted during the the Live2Africa Livestock Value Chain Prioritization Workshop held in Nairobi Kenya 19th – 21st February 2019. The workshop brought together a diversity of livestock sector actors and resulted in the selection of the five value livestock chains presented in Table 1.

These value chains have been prioritized as the entry point for the AU-IBAR's Live2Africa value chain work in each REC.

Table 1: Identified and prioritized Regional livestock value chains

Region	Prioritized Regional Livestock Value Chain (VC)	REC
Eastern Africa	Dairy VC transformation	EAC, IGAD
Central Africa	Poultry (eggs) VC transformation	ECCAS
Northern Africa	Dairy VC (camel, buffalo, small ruminants) transformation	UMA
Southern Africa	Meat & live animal VC transformation	SADC
Western Africa	Poultry VC transformation	ECOWAS



EXPECTED DELIVERABLES & OUTPUTS

The following outputs will be generated by the researcher:

- A report based on the analysis of market information systems for regional strategic interventions on livestock value chains.
- Policy brief on appropriate market information systems to build more equitable, sustainable, and lucrative livestock market systems at the regional level.
- Policy brief on strengthening market information management structures at regional level. Particular emphasis will be given to making market systems more interoperable, equitable, and sustainable.

WAY FORWARD

The researcher will collaborate with AU-IBAR to carry forward the research findings by developing advocacy messages/strategies around promoting inclusivity and equal access and participation in market information systems, particularly for women and other marginalized groups.

BACKGROUND

The African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) is implementing the Sustainable Development of Livestock for Livelihoods in Africa (Live2Africa) Project, which aims to strengthen the systemic capacity of continental, regional, and national livestock sector stakeholders for the economically, environmentally, and socially sustainable transformation of the livestock sector. Live2Africa is funded by the European Union.

The Live2Africa Project is developed along seven Results aligned to the Livestock Development Strategy for Africa (LiDeSA). For more details about LiDeSA, visit:

<http://repository.au-ibar.org/handle/123456789/540>.



The Live2Africa Project pioneers a comprehensive and integrated continental initiative that addresses all the subcomponents of livestock development utilizing a value chain approach, focusing on selected priority regional livestock value chains

(<https://www.au-ibar.org/au-ibar-projects/live2africa>).

Further information on the study may be obtained from:

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