Livestock Data: What Do Tanzania Stakeholders Say?

The Livestock Data Innovation Project conducted an online ‘data survey’ among Tanzania livestock stakeholders. The objective of the survey was to understand their uses of and concerns about livestock-related data and indicators available for public use.

A multiple choice questionnaire was submitted to about 150 stakeholders, to which 57, or about 38 percent, responded. Overall 70 percent of the respondents come from the public sector, including local governments (24%), National Ministries (39%), the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and the Dairy / Meat Board. 20 percent of the responses came from research institutes / universities while about 6 percent were submitted from the private sector, such as Juva Holdings (production and marketing of livestock and livestock products), Vet Care (veterinary services) and Tan Dairies (milk processing). About 3 percent of the responses originated from NGOs.

Demand and supply of livestock data

The largest majority of respondents, i.e. 79 percent, are both users and suppliers of livestock data. Another 16 percent, which include researchers from a variety of institutions - such as Sokoine University of Agriculture, the Open University of Tanzania and the Institute of Rural Development Planning - only use livestock-related data. Around 5 percent of respondents, from local governments and from one cooperative, consider themselves as pure suppliers of livestock-related data, i.e. they only collect and disseminate livestock data.

Stakeholders’ major sources of livestock-related data are the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development (54%) and Local Government Authorities (47%). Over 24 percent of respondents directly collect their own livestock data, while about 18 percent make use of data generated by the National Bureau of Statistics. But about 40 percent of staff in the various Ministries makes use of data produced by NBS, which is a notable share.

Overall, these results suggest that livestock data collection and dissemination in Tanzania - similar to most developing countries - is largely a public sector activity.

Type of Livestock Data

Stakeholders make use of variety of livestock related data, as shown in the graph below.

Data on livestock inventories and livestock consumption are accessed by about 68 percent of the respondents, followed by data on livestock production (58%) and animal health / diseases (54%). On the other hand, less than half of the respondents use trade statistics, and data on breeds, feed and poverty. This finding highlights data gaps for livestock-data stakeholders, in particular in accessing the necessary poverty data required for formulating pro-poor public and private sector investments in the livestock sector, a pre-requisite for the
implementation of the 2011 National Strategy for Growth and Poverty Reduction II.

Over 60 percent of respondents use national level data, which are mainly disseminated by the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development (MLFD) and by NBS. About 50 percent make use of Regional and District level data, which are collected by Local Government Authorities. About 32 percent of the respondents use household level data, mainly made accessible by NBS, for example through the administration of the National Panel Survey.

Most livestock data used are annual, but quarterly and monthly data are also available. Very few respondents make use of weekly or daily livestock-related data.

**Uses of Livestock Data**

Stakeholders make use of livestock data for a variety of purposes, including defining their work programme and budget; writing annual and quarterly reports; research and analysis; policy formulation; project formulation; and for advocacy purposes.

Surprisingly, while nearly 80 percent of the respondents were public sector employees, only about 17 percent of the stakeholders use livestock data to develop their work programme and budget, and less than 7 percent for policy formulation. Livestock data are mainly used for report writing (41%) — e.g. the Investment Opportunity Report produced by the Ministry of Livestock — and for research and analysis (32%). About 25 percent of stakeholders use livestock data for monitoring and evaluation.

**Quality of Livestock Data**

The largest share of livestock-data stakeholders, i.e. about 51 percent of respondents, rate as adequate the quality of available livestock data; 25 percent of the respondents contend that available livestock data are good and only a minority of stakeholders, i.e. 7 percent, consider them as poor or very poor.

These results are at odds with a number of official government documents and other evidence. For example, a Report on Livestock Data and Information in Tanzania released in 2010 by the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development reads: ‘Livestock data are currently inadequate in Tanzania ... as they lack consistency through time and between sources; and are not complete as they possess a lot of gaps’. At a roundtable on livestock data gaps and issues, organized in August 2011 by MLFD in collaboration with the Livestock Data Innovation Project, four panelists noted that: ‘livestock data quality is poor’; ‘livestock data is not adequate’; ‘livestock data is very inadequate’ and ‘livestock data is inadequate’. Only one panelist stated that ‘livestock data is adequate’.

**The way forward**

While there could be different views about the quality of available livestock data, there is little doubt that current data are hardly sufficient to formulate efficient and equitable investments in the livestock sector. There is, in fact, limited available information on the role of livestock in the household economy, a pre-condition to identify interventions that provide incentives for livestock producers to enhance production and productivity and escape poverty.

MLFD, the Livestock Data Innovation in Africa Project and the Living Standards Measurement Project of the World Bank (LSMS-ISA) are thus collaborating to promote improvements in the agricultural (and livestock) statistics system of Tanzania, under the umbrella of the Tanzania Statistical Master Plan and the UN Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics.

For further information please visit: [www.africalivestock.data.org](http://www.africalivestock.data.org)

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