Cattle in sustainable, healthy food systems: perspectives from Africa

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Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef webinar: The significance of animal protein
Africa’s cattle

Africa is home to 360 million cattle
Ethiopia has the most with 63 million
Kenya has 21 million
Raising cattle

Cattle are raised
- On small farms and
- On Africa’s vast rangelands
New: Rangelands Atlas

Total terrestrial surface 148.3 million km²

- Rangeland non livestock: 9%
- Livestock arid: 21%
- Livestock non arid: 24%
- Non rangeland: 46%

Kenya: 90% of red meat is from arid and semi-arid lands

About one third of the rangelands are in Africa 24.1 million km² in Africa used for ruminant livestock production

https://www.rangelandsdata.org/atlas
The story of cattle in Africa

Why diversity matters

Download:
https://cgspace.cgiar.org/bitstream/handle/10568/108945/cattle_books.pdf?sequence=2&isAllowed=y
Beef

Cattle raised for meat
Africa beef production and trade, 2018

A valuable commodity
Beef: $15 billion, Africa’s third most valuable commodity (behind cassava and maize) (about 7% of beef’s global value)

Beef production: 6.5 million tonnes
Less than 1% exported
(hypothetical: less than 3g protein/cap/day)

Data sourced from FAOSTAT, June 2021

Export
[Meat cattle (boneless beef and veal)]
S.Africa, 19,381
Botswana, 21,584
Namibia, 5,772
Other, 2,045

Data sourced from FAOSTAT, June 2021

Import bill for cattle meat $1.5 billion
48,782 tonnes $230 million
Across much of Africa livestock including cattle raised for beef have multiple functions
Healthy, well-cared-for and productive animals [cattle, sheep, goats, poultry, swine,...] contribute to sustainable, healthier and inclusive future livelihoods worldwide.

**Asset and safety net**
- Prevent falling into poverty
- Used to ‘step out’ of poverty

**Especially important for women**
- Only asset owned by 2/3 of rural women in LMICs
- Close link with household nutrition
- Used for risk management, school fees

**Essential for balanced nutrition**
- Vitamins and nutrients in milk, meat and eggs essential for physical and cognitive development

**Contribute to national economies**
- Globally, livestock 40% agGDP
- Over 50% in HICs
- 15-80% in LMICs (and growing)

**Fundamental for many livelihoods**
- 1 in 7 people on the planet depend on livestock for livelihoods
  - Kenya: 3.6 million people, livestock contributes 40-70% of income
  - Kenya: 20% of labour force in livestock
But change is needed

Address demand (double 2018 by 2030?)
Contribute to development
Mitigate harms

Estimates of the % growth in demand for animal source foods in different World regions, comparing 2005 and 2030. Estimates were developed using the IMPACT model, courtesy Dolapo Enahoro, ILRI.
Using technical, market and institutional interventions to assess yield gaps

% potential gain from interventions

- Genetics
- Health
- Feed

% potential gain from interventions

- Mkt access
- Input delivery

Increasing the quality of livestock and meat products and diversifying ‘farmer’ incomes in Eastern Africa’s ‘super' areas

Contribute to development; mitigate harms.....
Common destinations, multiple, different pathways

- Production efficiency
- Environmental stewardship
  - .....efficient, low-carbon, sustainable livestock production that supports rather than harms the environment.....

- Intentional engagement and empowerment of women
  - .....inclusive, fair, equitable livestock systems.....

- Consumption (wealthy)
  - Access, affordability
  - .....affordable, accessible, balanced, nutritious diets that include the choice of healthy livestock-derived foods

- Food safety
  - AMR
  - Endemic diseases
  - .....healthy animals, safe food, healthy people....

- Equity
  - New opportunities
  - .....every opportunity for every citizen and every nation to benefit fully from multiple livelihood and economic dimensions from sustainable livestock.....
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