



Livestock Data Innovation in Africa **BRIEF**

Joint brief of the World Bank, FAO, ILRI, AU-IBAR with support from the Gates Foundation

Issue 7 • July 2011

Livestock Market Data: Collection, Dissemination and Use in Tanzania

The Ministry of Industry and Trade (MIT) in Tanzania is mandated to 'facilitate the development of sustainable industry and trade sectors through creation of enabling environment and provision of improved services'. Assembling and disseminating market information is a key component of several of its policies and programmes.

In order to 'facilitate the development' of the livestock sector, in 2005 the Ministry of Industries and Trade initiated, with support from USAID, the Livestock Information Network Knowledge System (LINKS) which collects, processes and disseminates livestock market data. LINKS is now fully supported through the MIT budget.

The Collection of Livestock Market Data

LINKS covers 53 livestock markets, of which 41 are primary markets and 12 are secondary markets. Primary markets are under the management of Local Governments while secondary markets are usually controlled by the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development. Secondary markets are bigger and more regionally integrated, characterized by more centralized and better facilities. Most markets are held once per week while some are held twice.

In each livestock market, a so-called 'market-monitor' collects livestock market information on behalf of MIT every week. Market-monitors collect price information from buyers on concluded transactions for four types of animals, with details on breed, age, gender and grade.

- Livestock type: cattle, goats, sheep and donkeys;
- Breeds. e.g. Ankola, Boran, Danakil, Exotic cattle and other;
- Age group: immature, mature, mixed, young;
- Gender: female, male, castrate;
- Grade: grade 1 to grade 4, with grade 2 and 3 being the most reported.

For each type of animal, market monitors are expected to collect price information from five different buyers. They also compile information on the total volume of transactions from relevant market sources.

Market monitors are typically local government officers with no direct reporting responsibilities to the MIT. The Ministry of Industries and Trade, however, provides them with a mobile phone and some air-time, which market monitors use to send a coded text message to MIT with average prices and total volume of exchanges for the various animals. To incentive the data collection process, all market monitors are invited by MIT once a year to participate in a major meeting to discuss pressing issues / concerns and identify options for improvement.



Dissemination of Livestock Market Data

Every week, MIT receives price and volume data from market monitors. The data are first checked and validated. If inconsistencies are revealed, the relevant market monitor is contacted to ensure validity of the information.

'Weekly Summary Livestock Market Information Reports' for cattle, sheep, goats and donkeys are prepared and disseminated by MIT with

Weekly Summary Livestock Market Information Report - 14/05/2011 - 20/05/2011

Sheep Markets		Arumeru (Themi)	Bariadi (Bariadi)	Handeni (Nderema)	Kishapu (Muhunze)	Loliondo (Wasso)	Manyoni (Manyoni)	Maswa (Shanwa)	Mpwapwa (Chipogoro)	Mwanga (Mgagao)	Nzega (Ndala)	Shinyanga (Tinde)	
Breeds		Mixed	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed	Mixed	
Volume(Head)		325	11	277	216	115	522	30	180	62	141	95	
Price (TZS)	Mature	G2	55,200	25,000	30,500	34,800	72,400	41,000	41,867	37,600	45,000	33,500	40,000
	Female	G3	29,000	18,000	20,500	23,400	58,000	33,000	29,000	27,000	30,500	20,250	25,000
	Mature	G2	58,000	35,500	53,500	42,500	90,700	57,500	45,467	44,000	58,500	39,000	45,000
	Male	G3	32,800	22,500	38,000	25,000	70,000	36,250	35,067	31,000	36,000	25,250	30,000

information on average prices and total volume of exchanges from the different breed markets in the country. Details are given on breed, age, gender and grade of animals and the reports are released every Friday afternoon. A 'Monthly Livestock Market Information Report' is also released, which provides a comparative analysis of transactions and prices of the previous month.

Livestock weekly reports, such as the above table on sheep markets for the third week of May 2011, and monthly reports are regularly sent via email to major data stakeholders, including private and public sector actors. They are disseminated through English and Swahili newspapers, such as the Guardian, the Citizen, the Mwananchi and the Majira, either weekly or daily. Data are also disseminated through Radio and TV programmes and through market boards in the Community Information Centres.

Price and quantity data are publically available through the LINKS website (www.lmstz.net) with a search query that allows downloading information on specific markets. The system also facilitates comparing quantity traded and price levels at different times.

Uses of Livestock Market Data

MIT market data are used by a variety of stakeholders, including public and private sector actors. For example, both the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development and the National Bureau of Statistics make use of MIT data, which facilitates the monitoring/impact assessment of activities undertaken under the Agricultural Sector Development Programme.

There is also demand from private actors, including traders and financial institutions, for this market information. MIT receives regular requests by Banks for price data which is used to assess the value of livestock and the capacity of borrowers to repay possible loans.

Issues and the Way Forward

Unfortunately, market monitors do not always send their reports to MIT which, on average, receives information from less than 40 livestock

markets. This is also due to the fact that market monitors are Local Government Officers not directly accountable to MIT.

There are also some concerns about the sustainability of LINKS. While fully integrated under the MIT budget, MIT has been discussing options with Local Governments and the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development for sharing the costs of the system. Discussions are on-going on expanding the livestock coverage of system and broadening collection to include additional information. LINKS is, in fact, flexible and easily expandable.

The Livestock Data Innovation Project in Africa has been collaborating with MIT, and other Tanzania livestock-data stakeholders, with the overarching objective to ensure that LINKS is improved and become an integral part of the National Statistical System. This would allow using livestock market data jointly with other livestock information to formulate and design policies which contribute to the implementation of Tanzanian Statistical Master Plan as well as to the Agricultural Sector Development Programme and the National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty II.

For further information please visit:

www.lmstz.net

www.africalivestock.data.org

Or contact:

Alfred Mapunda, Assistant Director – Marketing, Information Research and Promotion, Tanzania Ministry of Industries and Trade alfredmapunda@yahoo.com

John Chassama, Economist, Tanzania Ministry of Industries and Trade, mbiti07@yahoo.co.uk

Ugo Pica-Ciamarra, Livestock Economist, FAO ugo.picaciamarra@fao.org

