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Issue 17

Core Livestock Data and Indicators: Results of a Stakeholder Survey

The Global Strategy to Improve Agriculture and Rural Statistics represents a major effort towards assisting developing countries to improve their agricultural statistical systems. It is structured around three pillars, of which the first is the establishment of a minimum set of core data that governments should collect. Between January and February 2012 the Livestock Data Innovation Project administered a global online survey among livestock stakeholders, of which the primary objective was to **identify and rank core livestock domains/areas for which livestock data / indicators are demanded**.

The survey targeted livestock-related data and indicators along the value chain. Essentially, these include information on livestock inventories, inputs and husbandry practices, production, and consumption of livestock products, i.e. data and indicators that measure, provide information on livestock market opportunities, and production and marketing-related constraints.

A brief summary of the results of the survey is presented here, while a detailed analysis is available at: <http://www.africalivestockdata.org/afrlivestock/content/papersreports>

The respondents

A total of 641 respondents filled in the survey questionnaire, with the majority coming from Africa (29%) and OECD countries (36%). Approximately 12 percent of respondents reside in East or Southeast Asia, 11 percent in Latin America and 9 percent in South Asia. The sample somewhat reflects the focus of the Livestock Data Innovation Project, which is on Africa.

As to affiliation, nearly 47 percent of the 641 respondents, i.e. 300 stakeholders, classified themselves as researchers or from a university, followed by 13.3 percent (or 84 respondents) from Livestock Ministries or Departments, 12 percent from private companies and about 10 percent from Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) as well as from Donors and International Organizations. Few respondents (from 0.3 to 1.3 percent) come from non-Livestock Ministries, Local Governments and the National Bureaus of Statistics.

Core livestock domains and indicators

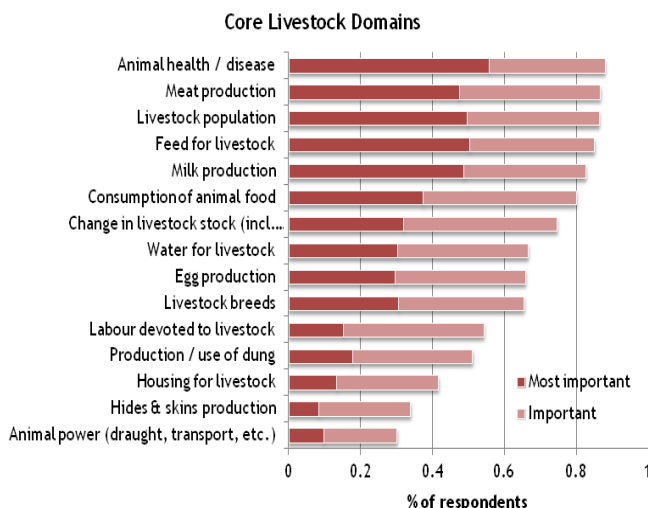
Respondents were asked to rank in the importance data/indicators in 15 livestock domains. Ranking is based on a 5 level rating scale (most important; important; useful; partly useful; marginally useful), while the livestock domains are:

- Livestock inventory;
- Change in livestock stock, which includes data/indicators on births, deaths, slaughters, marketing, etc.
- Animal health and disease;
- Livestock breeds;
- Water for livestock;
- Feed for livestock;
- Housing for livestock;
- Labour force devoted to livestock;
- Animal power, which primarily includes data/indicators on the use of animals for draught power and for hauling services;
- Meat production;
- Milk production;
- Egg production;
- Production and use of dung, including but not only as manure;
- Hides & skins production;

- Consumption of animal source foods.

Under each domain quantity and price data can be collected to generate various indicators, including value indicators (quantity × price). However, given the relevance of price information to formulate economically sustainable investments, a specific question on the importance of getting price information was added. In fact, over 83 percent stakeholders consider getting price data as most important or important.

Respondents identified six core livestock domains, which are considered as most important or important by at least 80 percent of the sample. Beyond prices, these include data/indicators on animal health and disease; meat production; livestock population; feed; milk production; and consumption of animal foods. Ranking in domains is similar across all groups of stakeholders.



Time and space dimensions of livestock data and indicators

The survey asked questions about the preferred time-frequency and the preferred unit of reference for livestock data and indicators. For all domains, respondents largely look for annual data and indicators, followed by quarterly and monthly information. No major differences in preferences were found between the various categories of respondents. However, information on animal health/disease is demanded on a monthly basis, which is possibly due to the public good dimension of epidemic and zoonotic diseases. Given that only 0.3 percent of the respondents come from the National Bureau of Statistics, the results possibly underestimate the need for quarterly data, which are needed in most countries to

produce quarterly estimates of livestock value added and GDP (see brief 1/2012).

As to the preferred unit of reference, respondents primarily require national level data/indicators, but also look for regional (within country) data and, to some extent, for district and household level data. In particular, stakeholders prefer national, region and district level data/indicators for the core livestock domains, and household level data/indicators for the other domains, such as for the production and use of animal dung, livestock housing and animal power. These results could overlook the demand for district level data as less than 1 percent of the respondents come from local governments. Indeed, the latter are increasingly responsible for the design and implementation of district level programmes and projects, including for animal health and disease control.

Improving livestock data: which priorities?

Finally, respondents were asked to identify and rank (from 1 to 4) four livestock domains for which they would like additional data/indicators and of better quality. The majority of stakeholders (51%) demand better data / indicators on animal health / disease, and a good share would also prioritize investments to improve data / indicators in the domains of livestock population (43%), livestock feed (41%) and meat production (34%). Very few respondents (<10%) prioritize investment of scarce resources to improve the quantity and quality of livestock data and indicators on hides & skins production, animal power, housing for livestock, labour, production and use of dung, and production of eggs.

For further information please visit:

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