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Issue 9

Livestock Data: What Do Uganda Stakeholders Say?

The Livestock Data Innovation Project conducted an online 'data' survey among Uganda livestock stakeholders. The objective of the survey was to understand their uses of and concerns about available livestock-related data and indicators.

The multiple choice questionnaire was submitted to 189 stakeholders, to which 57 or about 30 percent responded. Overall 70 percent of the respondents come from the public sector, including local governments, national Ministries, the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) and research institutes / universities; 25 percent come from the private sector, such as the Uganda Meat Producers Cooperative Union and Vet-Co Limited, and 5 percent of the responses originate from international organizations and NGOs.

Demand and supply of livestock data

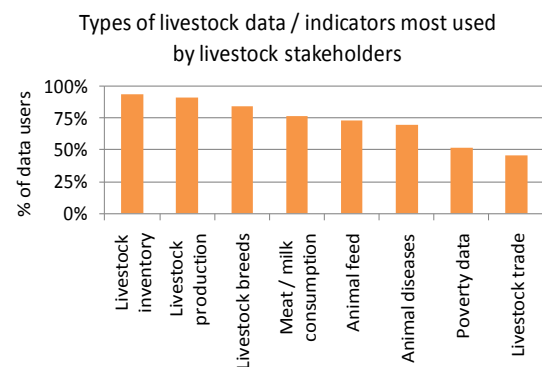
The largest majority of respondents, i.e. 75 percent, are both users and suppliers of livestock data. Another 24 percent, which include researchers and NGOs, as well as the Dairy Development Authority (DDA), are only users of livestock-related data. Only UBOS is a pure supplier of livestock-related data, i.e. it collects and disseminates some livestock data.

Stakeholders' major sources of livestock-related data are the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF). Almost 56 percent of respondents make use of MAAIF data, 43 percent of respondents use UBOS data and a similar percentage access data from Local Government Authorities. In effect, these institutions are the only regular collectors and suppliers of livestock related data in Uganda. A significant share of stakeholders (43%) directly

collect their own livestock data, while only two respondents make use of data assembled by the private sector. These results suggest that livestock data collection and dissemination in Uganda - 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 production are accessed by over 90 percent of the respondents, followed by data on livestock breeds and animal product consumption, followed by animal health / diseases. On the other hand, only half / less than half of the respondents search for poverty level indicators and trade statistics. 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. Both of the above would allow livestock to better be represented in the Agriculture Sector Development Strategy and Investment Plan 2010/11 - 2014/15.

Almost 88 percent of respondents make use of district level data, which are produced by local governments, followed by national level data (79%), usually disseminated either by UBOS or by MAAIF. About 71 percent of the respondents

use household level data, which are largely produced by UBOS, for example through the administration of the National Panel Survey.

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

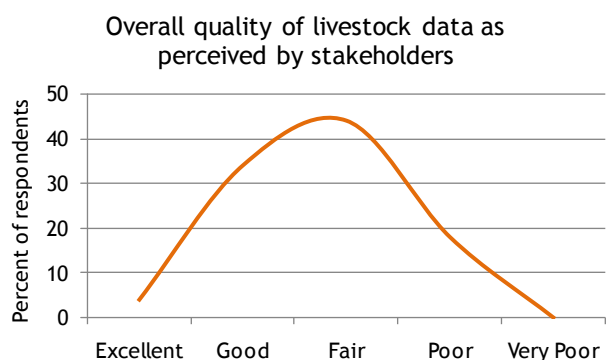
Uses of Livestock Data

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, despite over 70 percent of the respondents being from the public sector, less than 20 percent of the stakeholders use livestock data for project and policy formulation. Livestock data are mainly used for report writing (38%) – e.g. the Annual Report of the Directorate of Animal Resources of MAAIF, an invaluable source of livestock-related data – and for research and analysis (28%). Few stakeholders (<15%) use livestock data for monitoring and evaluation.

Quality of Livestock Data

A large share of livestock-data stakeholders, i.e. 44 percent of respondents, rate as adequate the quality of available livestock data; 34 percent of the respondents contend that available livestock data are good and only a minority of stakeholders, i.e. 18 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, the Uganda Agricultural Sector Strategic Plan for Statistics (ASSPS) 2007/2011 notes that ‘the quality of existing data has been questioned by users, often inaccurate and with many data gaps’; [...] ‘the national agricultural statistics system is unable

to meet demands for food and agricultural statistics. The responsible units have inadequate budgets, staff are ill-trained and physical and IT infrastructure is often inappropriate’

At a meeting of livestock-data stakeholders organized by Livestock Data Innovation Project in 2010, participants concluded that ‘there are significant gaps in livestock data in Uganda, some due to missing or inadequate data. However, equally as evident is the gap in poor and uncoordinated communication between data users and data suppliers’.

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 pro-poor 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 poor livestock keepers to enhance livestock production and productivity and escape poverty.

The way forward

MAAIF and the Livestock Data Innovation Project in Africa are collaborating with UBOS and the Living Standards Measurement Project of the World Bank (LSMS-ISA) to ensure that livestock is adequately represented in the next round of national panel survey (NPS). The NPS consists of multi-topic questionnaires administered to a representative sample of households, for which the objective is to collect data useful to measure welfare / poverty, investigate causalities between livelihoods, household characteristics and assets - including livestock ownership - and simulate the impact of alternative investments.

A new set of NPS data, including several livestock-related data, is expected to be freely available to users for analysis in the second half of 2012.

For further information please visit:
www.africalivestock.data.org

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