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Routine Livestock Data Collection in Zanzibar

Routine livestock data, or administrative record data, are regularly collected by the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries (MLF) of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar. These datasets serve the purpose of supporting the activities of the Ministry, for which the mission is:

- 'To promote the socio-economic status of the livestock and fisheries communities by creating an enabling environment, developing desirable policy, legal frameworks as well as developing mechanisms to enhance livestock and fisheries productivity and performance'.

The Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries was established as a stand-alone Ministry in the last quarter of 2010, and has been operational since January 2011. It comprises six Departments, including the Department of Animal Production, the Department of Veterinary Services, the Department of Fisheries Development, the Department of Marine Production, the Department of Administration and Human Resource and the Department of Planning, Policy and Research. The latter two are cross-cutting Departments, which cooperate with all others; the last one hosts the Statistical Unit in the Ministry.

The 2012/13 budget of the Ministry amounts to about US\$ 890,000. In mid 2012, there were about 730 staff in the Ministry (220 women), of which about 100 stationed in the HQs and the others in Districts and *Shehias* in Unguja and Pemba. About 20 staff hold BS degrees, 13 MS degrees and 1 is a PhD. There is only one staff in the Statistical Unit, who is currently attending a three-year statistical degree course in Uganda.

MLF System of Livestock Data Collection

The Zanzibar Revolutionary Government comprises a five level administrative structure, including the Central Government, Regions (5), Districts (10), Wards (about 150) and *Shehias* (about 250), which are the lowest administrative unit and can include dozens of villages.

MLF staff work in the Central Government, the Districts and the *Shehias*. The first step of data collection is performed at *Shehia* level, where, as one of their tasks, so-called Livestock Production Assistants and Para-veterinarians collect livestock-related data from livestock keepers. These data are sent every month to the District Authority, where the District Livestock Officer and the District Veterinary Officer prepare monthly reports and send them to MLF HQs. In particular, every month District Officers submit to MLF HQs:

- Animal Health Reports.
- Animal Production Reports.

MLF then compiles monthly Animal Health and Animal Production Reports, which cover the whole of Zanzibar. These reports are neither submitted to AU-IBAR nor to the World Organization of Animal Health (OIE).

In some circumstances, *Shehia* and District officers also obtain data from Community Animal Health Workers, even though the latter are not MLF staff. Another source of data are the so-called Animal Health and Production Centres of MLF. There are about 20 of such Centres in Zanzibar, which are located in the higher livestock concentration areas and provide livestock keepers with clinical, diagnostic, treatment as well as extension services.

Finally, when there are outbreaks of diseases that risk to spread throughout the islands, MLF provides human and financial resources to Local

Governments to control the disease. Additional data are collected in these circumstances, which can enter the monthly reports.

Which data are collected?

The Monthly Animal Health Report targets a variety of information, including:

- Disease outbreaks by type of disease and animal species (cattle, sheep, goats, donkeys, chicken, ducks, cats and dogs).
- Number of animals by species affected, treated (by type of treatment) and dead (by type of disease).
- Number of vaccinations, disease control and warm control practices by animal species and practice.
- Activities in quarantine stations (at ports and the airport), and related to meat inspections and laboratory investigations.
- Revenue collection, primarily generated by service fees (e.g. for AI or dipping) and movement permits.
- Number of staff available by gender and participation in training.

The Monthly Animal Production Report contains the following information:

- Number of livestock keepers by gender and animals owned, including cattle (indigenous and improved), goats (indigenous and improved), indigenous poultry, and layers and broilers.
- Number of farmer groups by animal species and membership.
- Animals owned by species by government farms, including multiplication units for dairy cattle and dairy goats.
- Number of animals sold, both within Zanzibar and between Zanzibar, Tanzania mainland and other countries.
- Number of animals slaughtered, yield (lit / kg) and production of cow and goat milk, beef, goat, chicken and eggs.
- Types of extension services provided (e.g. dairy husbandry practices; pasture management; animal welfare, etc.) and number of beneficiaries, as well as farmer field schools organized.
- Revenue collection, primarily from sales of pasture seeds and feed for animals.
- Number of staff available by gender and participation in training.

Livestock data quantity and quality

MLF's objective is to ensure regular and good quality information on the livestock sector in Zanzibar, with a focus on animal health and production. However, the quantity and quality of available livestock data is often unsatisfactory, for a number of reasons.

- Officers in Districts and *Shehias* are not trained in data collection / analysis, which is one of their many tasks, and not among their top priorities.
- Livestock Production Officers and Paravets in *Shehias* collect data from the farmers they visit, which may differ from month to month. In other words, data are not generated from a sample of farmers selected through statistical procedures.
- While there is a common data format for MLF District staff to compile the monthly Reports, at *Shehia* level, there is no common template, with extension officers collecting and reporting data as they prefer.
- At local level, resources are often scarce and, therefore, Districts do not always send with regularity their Animal Health and Production Reports to MLF HQs.

MLF has plans to improve the quantity and quality of routine livestock data, including recruiting more staff and conduct staff training, to establish benchmark data, and information systems. It recognizes the major challenges inherent in the generation of good quality production statistics, including information on off-take, carcass weight, milk yield per animal. Virtually all efforts to control and eradicate animal diseases have as an objective improving livestock productivity. The challenge is to measure these productivity gains, and, ultimately, to contribute to improved livelihoods for livestock farmers.

For further information please visit:

www.africalivestockdata.org

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