

RECOMMENDATIONS

Dialogue and interaction with livestock policy makers and stakeholders in Africa have resulted in the following recommendations which, if promptly implemented, would be the first steps in improving livestock data systems in Africa.

To National Governments:

1. Ensure dialogue between the Bureau of Statistics with other data stakeholders to integrate livestock data into the National Statistical Plan, which would include design, financing and implementation of surveys with the aim of generating adequate information on the sector.
2. Provide for the adequate inclusion of livestock in the integrated survey framework as recommended by the *Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics*. This will guarantee that the different survey instruments jointly generate comprehensive and timely information on livestock, provided that adequate financial resources are allocated for the implementation of the various surveys.
3. Adopt agreed-upon international standards and classifications for the collection of livestock data and the generation of livestock statistics so as to ensure the generation of accurate statistics at country, regional and continental level. This harmonization should be discussed and agreed upon at the sub-regional level.
4. Include animal health- and disease-related data among the core data on agriculture identified by the *Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics*.
5. Update on a regular basis livestock technical conversion factors and reproductive parameters, the estimation of which is critical to generate accurate livestock statistics, including livestock population, production levels and livestock value added.
6. Improve the quality of administrative record livestock data, which are key for the Ministry responsible for animal resources to deliver public goods.
7. Include livestock in Living Standards Measurement Surveys, which is essential to appreciate how livestock contribute to household livelihoods.
8. Implement, at regular intervals, different types of specialized livestock surveys as recommended under the integrated survey framework of the *Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics*. The objective of these surveys address priority areas for investment to increase livestock production and productivity. These surveys could target herd composition and dynamics, feed availabilities, breeding, meat, milk and manure production or other specific issues.
9. Commit to undertaking ad hoc surveys through the Ministry responsible for Livestock to generate critical livestock information when considering alternative policies and investments.
10. Ensure that livestock is adequately represented in a national data platform for the dissemination of agricultural data and statistics, and in so doing enable easy access to national and sub-regional survey results and other relevant data.

To Regional, Pan-African Institutions and the International Community:

1. Encourage national governments to include animal health and disease-related data among the core data on agriculture identified by the *Global Strategy*.
2. Facilitate the adoption of common methodologies to estimate technical conversion factors, so as to allow cross-country comparison of livestock data.
3. Create a common data platform at the regional and pan-African level to follow and leverage the trends and dynamics of the livestock sector.
4. Develop methodologies to improve the quantity and quality of available livestock data, both from a statistical and institutional perspective.

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5. Facilitate the sharing of best practices in survey design and implementation among African countries in order to adequately include livestock in the integrated survey framework recommended by the *Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics*.
6. Provide financial and technical assistance to countries to undertake ad hoc surveys to generate to generate critical livestock information when considering alternative policies and investments.

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