Animal iD & traceability related to trade
- African perspectives -

International Agreements, Standards and Regulations

Animal identification and recording systems for traceability and livestock development in SSA
Pretoria, South Africa, 14-16 April 2015

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Background

- Most SSA countries have animal identification systems (mostly cattle)
    - Ownership, breeding
    - Mixture of few mandatory and most voluntary
    - Largely based on brands, tattoos, ear notching
- Most SSA countries have veterinary permit systems to control or monitor some movements
- Few countries have implemented individual iD and traceability information systems to meet trade requirements

Developing animal iD and traceability

- Countries that developed systems primarily to meet EU market requirements (beef)
    - Namibia – NamLITS (plus sheep and goats)
    - Botswana – LITS
    - Zimbabwe – ZCTS
    - Swaziland - SLITS
- Several pilots and other attempts have been developed (cattle)
    - e.g. Guinea Conakry, Kenya, South Sudan, Malawi, Lesotho, Angola, Tanzania (ongoing)

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Design of systems

- Animal identification
  - Group iD – branding, tattoos
  - Individual animal iD – ear tags, boluses
- Register of holdings or establishments
  - Fenced off holdings
  - Commons – communal settlements
- Animal movement controls
- Recording other animal events
- Databases – linking animal with health status

Implementation

- Public and public-private partnerships
    - Distribution of tags
    - Purchase of tags by farmers
- Substantial external funding
- Extensive support from governments
- Commerce driving implementation of system
    - Retailers, feedlots
- Quality assurance schemes piggy-backing on national traceability system
- International standards, considered

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Wide range of uses

- Animal health management
  - Surveillance, disease control and zoning
- Supporting export certification
  - Validating animal health status
  - Food safety
- Quality assurance
  - Farm assurance schemes
  - Private standards
- Others
  - e.g. Agri-finance schemes, stocking rates
  - Verifying transactions

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Pitfalls

- Limited involvement of stakeholders
- Misinterpretation of market requirements
    - Group/individual iD, national/terminal markets
- Underestimation of resources required
    - one-person implementation units
- Rushed implementation to meet deadlines
- Implementing complex systems
- Single-purpose systems – export certification
    - Agri-finance, statistics, police, ban

Common challenges faced

- Acceptance by stakeholders often took time
- Limited capacity to implement system
- Lack of understanding of importance of system
- Meeting requirements of a basket of markets
- Different compliance levels along value chain
- External funding limited e.g. pilot phase
- Failure to secure funding for further development and maintenance

Common challenges faced cont.

- Animal movement controls in commons
- Separation of animal populations in commons
- Pre-export isolation of animals in commons
- Enforcement strategies
- Timely notification of database
- Backlogs in data entry
- Costly information systems
- High turnover of IT professionals
- Rigid procurement systems

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Developing trends

- Regional systems to curb cattle rustling
  - e.g. IGAD
- Regional systems to monitor movements
  - e.g. ECOWAS
- Sanitary measures requiring individual iD
  - Pre-export isolation of live animals
  - Pre-export testing of animals
  - Herd freedom testing
- Establishment of disease free/export zones
- Growing private standards by retailers

Other issues

- Mobility is important for animals raised in semi-arid, arid and hyper-arid areas

- Managing cross-border movements

- Equity – traceability requirements may prevent further participation of smallholder farmers

- Lack of common regional approach to animal identification

- Outdated legal frameworks

- Lack of model legislation and technical assistance

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Key success factors

1. Stakeholder participation is key to success

2. Correct identification of national requirements

3. Be sure of what the market requirements are

4. Plan – strategic, implementation and execution

5. Implement a practical and affordable system

6. Aim for equivalence and not sameness of systems

7. Reviews, monitoring and evaluation

Animal identification and traceability system is not an end in itself, it is just but a tool

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Thank You!

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