



**African Union**

**Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources**

# ARE ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION, TRACEABILITY AND HEALTH AND PERFORMANCE RECORDING AN ISSUE/PRIORITY IN AFRICA?

James Wabacha, Henry Wamwayi, Raphael Coly,  
Zelalem Tadesse, Ahmed Elsayalhy



# Outline

- History and Mandate of AU-IBAR
- The importance and the potential of the Livestock Sector
- Main considerations
  - ✓ Pan Africa stakeholders Perspective;
  - ✓ AIRs situational assessment studies;
  - ✓ Livestock Development Strategy for Africa (LiDeSA);
  - ✓ Increasing demand for compliance with SPS and food safety standards.
- Conclusions



# History and Mandate of AU-IBAR

- 1951      Interafrican Bureau of Epizootic Diseases (IBED)  
            aimed at rinderpest eradication
- 1956      Interafrican Bureau for Animal Health (IBAH)  
            transformed to widen the scope
- 1965      Part of OAU  
            integrated as a regional technical office
- 1970      Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (IBAR)  
            to reflect the expansion into livestock production  
            issues
- 2003      Africa Union Interafrican Bureau for animal  
            resources (AU-IBAR)

Specialized technical office of the      AUC-DREA



## *Mandate of AU-IBAR*

AU-IBAR is mandated to coordinate the development and utilization of livestock, fisheries and wildlife as a resource for human well-being and economic development in the Member States of the African Union (AU)



# *The importance and the potential of the Livestock Sector*

- Up to 320 M people in Africa are directly dependant on Livestock for their income and livelihood;
- LS represents 30% of Africa's agricultural GDP;
- Animal source foods are the best source of essential micro-nutrients in forms that can be readily assimilated by humans, which is esp. important for children;
- LS provides employment and other livelihood opportunities;
- Contributor to economic development;



# The importance and the potential of the Livestock Sector

The sector is well positioned to:

- Contribute to the delivery of both the agricultural-led growth, and the socio-economic transformation envisioned in the Malabo declaration;
- whose among other commitments include ending hunger in Africa by 2025,
- Halving poverty, by the year 2025,



# The importance and the potential of the Livestock Sector

Boosting Intra-African Trade in Agricultural commodities and services and





# The importance and the potential of the Livestock Sector

Enhancing resilience of livelihoods and production systems to climate variability and other related risks.







## Main considerations

'Are Animal Identification, traceability, and health and performance recording an issue /priority in Africa?'



# Main considerations

- Pan African stakeholders perspectives;
- Studies carried out in selected regions and countries in Africa
- Regional assessments carried out in the 5 regions of Africa to inform development of the Livestock Development Strategy for Africa (LiDeSA).
- Trends of increasing demand by livestock importing countries and consumers for increased compliance with SPS and food safety standards.



# Pan African stakeholders perspectives

- Pan Africa stakeholders 7th September 2012 in Addis Ababa Ethiopia,
- Livestock trade and Marketing associations,
- Continental and regional initiatives supporting livestock trade and marketing in Africa and
- Regional Economic Communities.





## Pan African stakeholders perspectives...2

- Expressed need for establishment of LITS in Africa:
- ✓ Facilitation of trade/certification;
- ✓ Breeding and genetic improvement programmes;
- ✓ Facilitation of animal movements and transhumance;
- ✓ Disease control; Public health;
- ✓ Resolution of conflicts and control of cattle theft/rustling;
- ✓ Statistics/census and for Insurance purposes



## Pan African stakeholders perspectives...3

Recommended the following principles to be followed when designing LITS for Africa:

- Take into account and build on existing traditional systems;
- Copy and paste approaches should be avoided;
- Simplicity, sustainability and cost efficiency should be the main guiding principles for the design of LITS;
- Benefits versus costs of their establishment;
- LITS should be harmonized at regional level;
- Communication with all stakeholders should be maintained throughout the development and implementation of LITS.



## Pan African stakeholders perspectives..4

- A Meeting on Livestock identification and traceability systems LITs for Southern African Countries was held in Johannesburg on 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2012;
- Identify best practices in animal identification, traceability, and livestock and livestock products certification for exports;
- To identify policy options and other way forward for improving certification, traceability and identification of livestock;



# Pan African stakeholders perspectives..5

## Resolutions

- Member States should set-up, designate or improve capacity of a responsible body, under the supervision of the country's competent authority for driving the LITS process, which includes key stakeholders in particular the producers;
- Member States should ensure wide stakeholder consultation for designing and developing the national LITS, clearly elucidating obligations, benefits, incentives and penalties;
- Member States should adopt a benefit realization approach for the implementation of LITS;



## Pan African stakeholders perspectives..6

### Resolutions

- RECs should design a LITS operational framework, based on the international standards and guidelines, to guide Member States in their development or improvement of national LITS;
- RECs should set up a strategy to support Member States to implement international standards and guidelines related to LITS;
- AU-IBAR and RECs should promote, and Member States should adopt simple, affordable and sustainable LITS;





## Pan African stakeholders perspectives..7

### Resolutions

- When developing or enhancing national LITS a Member State should consult extensively the stakeholders, especially primary producers, and agree on a cost sharing policy;
- AU-IBAR and RECs should implement training programmes in the region aimed at building capacities of stakeholders on identification and traceability;
- Member States should conduct public awareness campaigns to ensure stakeholders fully understand the needs, obligations, costs and benefits of national LITS;



# Pan African stakeholders perspectives..8

## Resolutions

- AU-IBAR and RECs should develop decision-making tools to assist countries in choosing the most appropriate option for LITS.



# LITs situational assessment studies

- Studies in 26 African countries, in different regions in Africa to
- Assessed existing and planned LITS

## Findings:

- Animal identification with or without a traceability was practised and supported:

- ✓ Access to lucrative livestock markets

- ✓ Quality assurance on the health status of traded livestock (feedlots, quarantine stations);





## LITs situational assessment studies..2

- ✓ Support livestock management in intensive production systems;
- ✓ Support animal breeding and genetic improvement programmes;
- ✓ Demonstrate ownership of animals by individuals and tribes especially to curb cattle theft;
- ✓ Identify vaccinates by the veterinary services (ear notching, branding);
- ✓ Support livestock transaction in the markets (use of paints, shaving of hair etc);
- ✓ Support disease control/eradication schemes;



# LITs situational assessment studies..3

- ✓ Support livestock transaction in the markets (use of paints, shaving of hair etc);
- ✓ Support disease control/eradication schemes;



Courtesy Dr. Jada Rombe



# LITs situational assessment studies...4

- ✓ Goat identification to allow tracing of Mohair from the market back to the farm where it was harvested;
- ✓ Support trace-back of animals from markets to slaughter house;
- ✓ To help identify the trader supplying livestock for export;







# LITs situational assessment studies...5

- Few 19% (5/26) countries had a National or a AIRs covering a segment of livestock;
- All the 26 countries practiced animal identification of one form or the other;
- The Livestock identification methods used ranged from ear notching, branding, tattooing, use of names, use of bells, ear tags, RFID ear tags and boluses, shaving the hair, use of oil paints on the skin.
- All the countries had plans in the near future to put in place a AIRs system nationally or for a segment of the livestock sector.



# LITs situational assessment studies..6

- Consider context when designing AIRs.
- Challenges that need to be addressed for effective application of AIRs:
  - ✓ Inadequate data to support policy formulation on AIRs.
  - ✓ Policy and legal frameworks;
  - ✓ low levels of awareness of AIRs by livestock stakeholders;
  - ✓ high cost of AIRs;
  - ✓ livestock mobility;





# LITs situational assessment studies..7

- ✓ limited capacity and infrastructure;
- ✓ large livestock populations;
- ✓ inadequate harmonized disease surveillance and control;
- ✓ departments in charge of implementation of AIRs are not under one Ministry;
- ✓ poor organization and regulation of livestock marketing systems;
- ✓ weak enforcement of policies;
- ✓ social and cultural issues;



# LITs situational assessment studies..8

- ✓ inadequate financial resources;
- ✓ weak institutions to deal with AIRS issues;
- ✓ inadequate human capacity, poor buy-in by stakeholders;
- ✓ limited access to lucrative markets that offer higher prices and
- ✓ maintenance of database able to trace and retrieve individual animals to the herd of origin;



# LITs situational assessment studies..9

- Regional harmonization of AIRs was a priority issue (IGAD, SADC);
- Need for a common objective;
- For the IGAD region the common objectives identified were:
  - ✓ Support trade;
  - ✓ Disease control, traceability; and
  - ✓ Ownership/theft prevention.
- Regional Guidelines based on these three pillars for the IGAD Region have been developed.



# Livestock Development Strategy for Africa (LiDeSA).

- To Fast track reforms in the livestock sector the Executive Council of AU (decision (EX.CL/Dec.792 (XXIV)), requested AUC to lead and coordinate the formulation of the Livestock development Strategy for Africa (LiDeSA), covering 20years to answer the current sector challenges;
- The decision was based on the recommendation of the Ministers of Livestock (9th conference-Abidjan Cote d'Ivoire-April 2013) for a livestock development strategy;
- That will position the livestock sector as a key drivers for 6% annual growth in agriculture;



# Livestock Development Strategy for Africa (LiDeSA)..2

- Regional assessment studies undertaken by AU-IBAR in the 5 regions of Africa in 2014,
- Assess status of livestock, policies, institutional frameworks, progress, challenges and opportunities;
- Identified absence of Animal Identification and Recording as a key factor;
- Livestock Development Strategy for Africa (LiDeSA) based on the issues identified including use of AIRs in livestock development



# Livestock Development Strategy for Africa (LiDeSA)...3

- LiDeSA was adopted by the AU Summit in January 2015;
- Will guide livestock development in African for the next 25 years.



# LiDeSA Vision



**A COMPETITIVE AND SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK  
SECTOR THAT SIGNIFICANTLY CONTRIBUTES TO A  
PROSPEROUS AFRICA**





# LiDeSA Goal



**TO TRANSFORM THE AFRICAN LIVESTOCK SECTOR  
FOR ENHANCED CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIO-  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND EQUITABLE  
GROWTH**





# LiDeSA Strategic Objectives

1

- To Attract public and private investments along the different livestock value chains

2

- To enhance animal health, and increase the production, productivity and resilience of livestock production systems

3

- To enhance innovation, generation and utilization of technologies, capacities and entrepreneurship skills of livestock value chain actors

4

- To enhance access to markets, services and value addition



## Increasing demand for compliance with SPS and food safety standards.

- Increased global demand for animals and animal products;
- Growing concern by consumers on the origin of food they eat;
- Increasing demand by livestock importing countries on improved SPS and food safety standards;
- AIRs form an important basis for quality assurance of animals and animal products,
- Need to meet the growing demands and the stringent market requirements on SPS by implementing AIRs.



## **Increasing demand for compliance with SPS and food safety standards.**

To Position the livestock sector to contribute to the achievement of the Malabo Declaration on accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and improved livelihoods that among other commitments aims to triple, by the year 2015, intra-African trade in agricultural commodities and service.



# Conclusions

1. Only few countries in Africa have national or a AIRs covering a segment of livestock sector;
2. Animal identification without a traceability component is widely carried in Africa;
3. AIRs is a key issue containing livestock development in Africa;
4. The LiDeSA provides common framework to support countries to approach AIRs from the perspective of overall livestock development:
5. There is increasing demand by livestock importing countries and consumers for compliance with SPS and food safety standards:



## Conclusions..2

6. Animal identification, traceability and health and performance recording are therefore issues of high priority for Africa;
7. Development of improved AIRs need to take into consideration the different peculiarities and features of the different production systems;
8. Fundamental challenges including, lack of policy and legal frameworks; low levels of awareness of AIRs by livestock stakeholders; high cost of AIRs; livestock mobility; limited infrastructure; large livestock populations among others need to be addressed;



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# Thank You



**Providing Leadership in the Development of Animal Resources for  
Africa**