

LIVESTOCK IN THE SAHEL AND WEST AFRICA

Valorising Regional Livestock Complementarities: A lever to better meet growing demand for animal products in the Sahel and West Africa

Overview of the Regional Potential in Animal Production

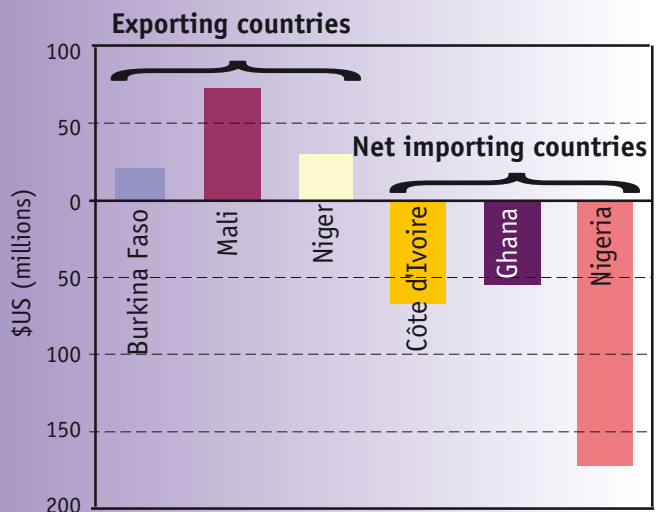
Demand for animal products will sharply increase in the Sahel and West Africa (SWA)

With a growth rate of animal products in the Sahel and West Africa (SWA) estimated at 4% per year, demand is expected to increase by more than 250% by 2025. The production growth rate of these products, estimated at less than 2%, remains significant despite the fact that it is still less than the growth rate of demand as well as the population. However, per capita consumption is quite low: in West Africa, it is estimated at 5.2 times and 6.5 times less than Europe for meat and milk respectively. But even if this consumption does not increase, overall demand will continue to grow because of the increase in population. Therefore, the SWA will need to address a strong potential demand in the coming years. Regional production as regards the regional demand varies according to products: 100% for the meat of small ruminants and eggs, 98% for beef and pork, 80% for poultry meat and 74% for milk and dairy products. Imports thus account for 2% of beef and pork, 20% of poultry meat and 26% of milk and dairy products.

The importance of imports varies according to different zones and raises the following issues: Can regional demand be met at reasonable prices by increasing local production? If so, why the potential demand is not yet satisfied by regional production? Are current livestock policies in line with food security goals and with potential production? Do they sufficiently valorise regional complementa-



Figure 1 – Net value of exports (exports minus imports) of cattle, sheep and goats in 1999 (\$US millions)



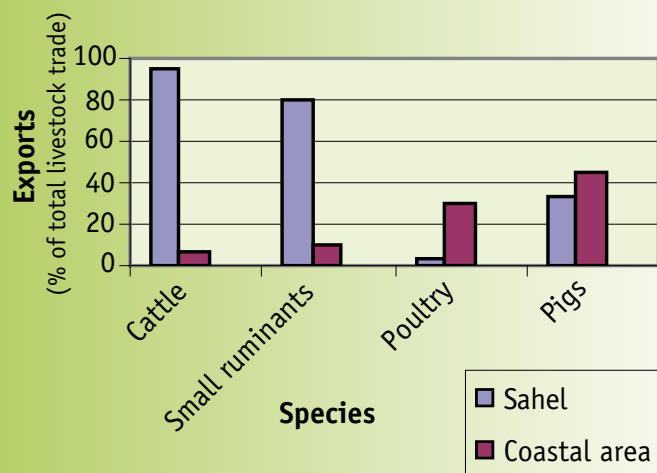
Source - Faostat 2004



SAHEL AND WEST AFRICA CLUB



Figure 2 – Trade of live animals in the Sahel and West Africa (2003)



rities and potential in animal production? Are the comparative advantages of the various livestock production systems in the SWA being taken into account? Which comparative advantages and/or complementarities are being neglected by national livestock policies? These issues deserve special attention.

Comparative advantages of different livestock production zones in the Sahel and West Africa

Despite wide climatic variations and low fodder production, the Sahel is a net exporter of livestock and meat products in West Africa (Figure 1). The share of the Sahel's exports in the regional livestock trade in 2003 was 95% for cattle, 79% for small ruminants, 3% for poultry and 33% for pigs.

The coastal area, including Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, has a fairly

steady climate, good fodder production and is a net importer of livestock and meat products. In 2003 (Figure 2), the share of its exports in the regional livestock trade was between 0 and 7% for cattle, 0.3-10% for small ruminants, 0-30% for poultry and 0-44% for pigs. Production of pork and the meat of small ruminants are growing in this part of West Africa.

National livestock policies take insufficiently account of regional complementarities

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The analysis of livestock development plans in different countries indicates that national policies rarely consider the region as a whole. Burkina Faso and Benin are examples.

Burkina Faso's livestock action plan and investment programme (PAPISE 2005) "document in the process of adoption by the government"

In 2005, Burkina Faso defined four priority areas of intervention in the framework of the PAPISE. Some programmes of the 4 intervention areas mention activities related to the regional dimension:

- ▶ As regards the first intervention area "improving animal productivity," the sustainable resources management programme explicitly encourages the acceptance of livestock transhumance certificates by all ECOWAS countries. It aims to secure access to resources. The animal health improvement programme also includes strengthening efforts to combat cross-border diseases.
- ▶ As regards the intervention area "dealing with sector crises and vulnerabilities," the programme for prevention and management of climatic crises mentions sub-regional mechanisms to define ways and means for the implementation of the programme.

But some sections of PAPISE do not take sufficient account of regional complementarities.

As regards the programme, "support for animal sub-sectors" for example, the strategy of the modern poultry-breeding is "satisfying national demand for eggs". This objective faces serious obstacles such as insufficient feed availability and heat, while coastal countries such as Côte d'Ivoire have more favourable environmental conditions (Box 1).



Benin's 2005-15 livestock action plan

Priority action areas in the national strategy were identified. These action areas were based on the main components of the operational strategic plan:

- a) Control of animal epidemics
- b) Increase and diversification of livestock products
- c) Crop/livestock Integration
- d) Promotion of livestock according to the agro-ecological potential of different countries.

Among the different priorities, the Benin government intends to focus on animals where it has clearly a comparative advantage, such as small ruminants, poultry, non-conventional animal rearing and milk production.

Organising actors is also a priority and the main points of the plan include:

- a) Support the professionalisation of the livestock sub-sector, especially through technical training and the strengthening and expansion of livestock infrastructure.
- b) Strengthening veterinary protection for animals and the improvement of public health.

In Burkina Faso and Benin, action in areas where each country has comparative advantages have been identified but the regional aspect is hardly mentioned.

For example, Burkina Faso has made management of transhumance a priority but does not explicitly mention the need for an inter-state approach. National strategy is based on creating and adapting about 40 new pastoral areas. However, within the framework of the ECOWAS regional agricultural policy (ECOWAP), a programme has been established to take into account the constraints linked to transhumant pastoralism and is comprised of three aspects: i) marking out transhumance corridors and building facilities and water-points along them; ii) preventive health measures and treatment; iii) defining usage rules and setting up mechanisms to resolve conflicts.

What is the added value or the advantage of the “regional integration” approach in the promotion of the livestock sector in SWA countries?

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Better use of natural resources

The region's natural resources in fodder and water supply for animal production are not evenly distributed. Sahel countries have fewer natural resources in fodder and water supply but have most of the animals, while coastal countries are better endowed but have fewer animals. Clear pastoral and water management policies could reduce conflicts around these resources and ensure their more effective use.

Better use of available funding

Funding for livestock in the region is still small and the sector gets less than 10% of national budgets. If each of these countries could use these limited resources for the promotion of the type of livestock for which there are animal and human resource advantages, it would increase its funding of this type of livestock and then its production. Hence, each country could make better use of economies of scale.

Better response to a continuously growing regional demand

Box 1 – Reducing production costs and making productivity gains in animal sub-sectors

In order to better meet ever-growing regional demand, production costs must be reduced and the competitiveness of animal sub-sectors needs to be improved.

Optimising comparative advantages will improve competitiveness. For example, Côte d'Ivoire's production costs for eggs are 30 CFA francs per egg while there are 40 CFA francs for Burkina Faso. Côte d'Ivoire should then invest more in egg production and Burkina should switch to other products. This way, Côte d'Ivoire will make better use of economies of scale and reduce its production costs, benefiting regional consumers.



Adopt an approach that is both national and regional

National level

1. Change animal productivity growth policies by focusing on what each country can do best.
2. Improve management of animals by intensifying animal production for the regional market and increasing competitiveness for products to be sold outside the region.

Regional level

1. Better coordination of national policies for a better use of complementarities between countries.
2. Increase funding of regional animal production by supporting countries that can supply the regional animal products market.
3. Better coordination of shared resources (pasture, water) and address sanitary and veterinary obstacles.

Implement short- and medium-term strategies and action

Several strategies should be adopted to valorise comparative advantages and strengthen regional integration of animal production. The main strategies and actions in the short and medium term are:

National level

1. Promote vertical integration between actors in the whole livestock chain (from production to market) to optimise animal sub-sectors.
2. Accelerate the creation of new professional organisations (livestock rearing associations, traders and processors) and strengthen the capacity of existing associations in order to produce competent representatives that could efficiently negotiate and exchange with governments and funding institutions.
3. Implement policies geared towards production and processing.

Regional level

1. Undertake regional planning to reach agreement on which livestock have comparative advantages in each country and which would benefit from regional action. Persuade countries to include the regional perspective in their livestock policies.
2. Adopt livestock investment codes to encourage regional products.
3. Stress the need to focus on comparative advantages and animal product complementarities in ECOWAS action plans. The current "animal sector development" component aims to help countries define and implement national investment programmes related to technical and economic aspects but does not take into account animal production favoured by different countries.

Planning and implementing regional action requires the harmonisation of ECOWAS and UEMOA policies aiming to promote regional integration.

Photos: Jean S. Zoundi.

**For more details, please refer to the complete document:
"The Future of Livestock in the Sahel and West Africa: Potentials
and Challenges for Strengthening the Regional Market",
available on SWAC website: www.oecd.org/sah**



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