



Core indicator meeting in Niger

A discussion on priority livestock indicators

Ministry of Livestock, 9 August 2012



Livestock Data Innovation Project in Africa: a joint project of the World Bank, FAO, ILRI, AU-IBAR with support from the Gates Foundation



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1. INTRODUCTION

Niger is one of the piloted countries being targeted under the Gates-funded Livestock Data Innovation in Africa Project (LDIAP). This project¹ supports the identification of priority livestock indicators and underlining data and the institutionalization of this data into national frameworks of agricultural statistics. The ultimate objective is to foster pro-poor investment and policy formulation in the livestock sector.

This project is being implemented jointly by the World Bank, FAO, ILRI in cooperation with AU-IBAR with activities on-going in three countries, Uganda, Tanzania, and Niger. To- date, on-going project activities in Niger are limited to the enhancement of livestock questions in the current household survey being implemented by the Government in collaboration with the World Bank (Enquête Nationale sur les Conditions de Vie des Ménages Agricoles, ENCVMA²).

The project anticipates two livestock studies in Niger: 1) an analysis of the results of the recently fielded Enquête Nationale sur les Conditions de Vie des Ménages Agricoles (ENCVMA) and 2) an anticipated “Livestock Data Gap Analysis”. On August 9th, 2012 the Ministry of Livestock convened an initial meeting on livestock data which regrouped about 10 livestock representatives. Participants included staff from the Ministry of Livestock, the Institute National de la Statistique (INS), and two representatives from the LDIAP as well as an international consultant undertaken the ENCVMA analysis.

The technical meeting aimed to:

- Present the LDIAP to stakeholders;
- Review the activities of the two livestock data studies which are to be undertaken in Niger;
- Review concerns about livestock data collection, analysis and dissemination.

The Workshop was opened by Dr. Ibrahim Bangana, Head of the Department of Veterinary Services of the Ministry of Livestock. The first session included presentations by Nancy Morgan, World Bank coordinator of the LDIAP and Mr. Ibrahim Bocoum, consultant working in partnership with the Ministry to review the livestock data derived from the ECVMA analysis. The ensuing discussion was moderated by Dr. Cheikh Ly, FAO’s Animal Production and Health Officer, based in FAO’s Regional Office in Accra.

2. AN INTRODUCTION TO THE PROJECT AND REVIEW OF LIVESTOCK INDICATORS: Nancy Morgan, SR. Economist, World Bank

The LDIAP was presented to the participants including the objective of the project which is to “put in place mechanisms and institutional linkages which foster an enhancement of livestock data which serves to enhance pro-poor investments”. In particular, the importance of this project was highlighted in recognition of the poor quality of livestock data and the limited knowledge of the role

¹ <http://www.africalivestockdata.org/afrlivestock/>

² The ECVMA is the equivalent of the Bank’s coordinated LSMS-ISA (Living Standards Measurement Surveys on Agriculture) which is another Gates-funded project

that livestock plays in African economies. Consequently, the project is working in Uganda, Tanzania, and Niger to identify and experiment with new methods of collecting and analyzing livestock data.

Some critical indicators of importance to the sector were reviewed. In most countries, including Uganda and Tanzania, these include the number of animals on a national and sub-national level. At the household level, there is an opportunity through the ENCVMA study to use household data to better understand the composition of the herds at a household level, access to inputs and services, including water, labor, feed, and animal health services. The group was informed that the current survey in Niger includes 190 livestock questions, out of a total of 300. This number of questions exceeds that of all countries in Africa currently involved in household panel surveys. It consequently offers a unique opportunity to better depict the role of livestock which, in Niger, is recognized as being critical to livelihoods and important for economic growth. The group agreed to work with the consultant who is analyzing the data to identify priority indicators of importance to the sector.

3. L'ELEVAGE ET LES CONDITIONS DE VIE DES MENAGES AU NIGER: Household data analysis, presented by Ibrahima Bocoum

Mr. Ibrahima Bocoum presented the objectives of the above study and indicated that during his week-long mission he plans to work with Ministry officials to identify and construct key indicators, review different types of analysis, and undertake some preliminary analysis of the survey data. He reviewed some of the indicators in his presentation (available in the Annex) and indicated that the analysis of the survey data will focus also on priority indicators reviewed in a similar analysis undertaken in Tanzania and presented in a Project paper "Livestock and livelihoods in rural Tanzania"³.

4. DISCUSSIONS

Feedback from participants included clarifications by the Ministry about the two years spent preparing for the ENCVMA and the process which included two visits to households over the course of a year. Unfortunately only one visit was effectuated for livestock, thus minimizing responses under the transhumant section of the livestock module.

Additional comments on the process included a revisiting of some of the lessons learned from the previously agricultural/livestock surveys undertaken in 2005-2007. In particular, three different systems of livestock were identified in the previous survey work: pure agriculture (11%), livestock (11%) and mixed (80%) and it was found that at least 2-3 visits were required to ensure adequate monitoring of livestock households. In addition, the problems of sampling was highlighting as one of the critical factors limiting adequate collection of livestock data under both the

³ http://www.africalivestockdata.org/afrlivestock/sites/africalivestockdata.org/files/PAP_LIV_TZ_LSMS-ISA_July_%2012.pdf

agriculture/livestock survey and the ENCVMA. A critical question debated was how to ensure effective sampling in pastoralist areas.

It was brought up that Niger's experience with the previous survey, the current ENCVMA, and an extensive system of routine data collection which includes collection from 84 districts should be exploited to draw lessons about how to ensure adequate collection of livestock statistics, both on the household and the national level.

Critical livestock indicators include those typically collected in field level assessments of "taux de croissance" and "taux d'exploitation", such as those depicted in the following table. It was recognized that indicators on livestock product consumption (urban and rural) can potentially be derived from the ENCVMA.

Priority Livestock Indicators (From discussions and presentations).

Objective (why collect data)	Possible indicators	Level of aggregation
1. Sector Monitoring	Number of animals	National and district
	Off-take (slaughtered/locally traded/exported): taux d'exploitation	National and district
	Animal disease outbreaks, number of animals affected/lost	National and district
	Animal product consumption (urban and rural)	National, drawn from household surveys
2. Planning and Investment	Taux de croissance (change in stock numbers: births, mortalities)	National/herd level
	Slaughter	National/district
	Productivity indicators	National/district, household
	Seasonality of livestock production and consumption	Household surveys
3. Estimating sector's contribution to poverty reduction	Livestock numbers, Livestock income as share of total income	National and household
	Use of animal traction/manure on cereal production	Household
	Contribution of livestock to total consumption	Household
	Female participation in markets	Household

	Access to input and output markets	Household
	Animal health at the household herd level	Household
4. Estimating sector's contribution to economic growth	Livestock % of GDP	National
	Growth in annual value of livestock production compared to other sectors	National
	Number of jobs created by the sector	National

Gaps identified particularly focused on the methodologies needed to ensure quality of above data. Sampling is a priority concern as well as the need to ensure harmonization of definitions, including those of “pastoralist” and “agro-pastoralist” households.

The meeting concluded with some recommendations which include the need to develop a clear plan on activities related to enhancing livestock data which would start with meetings with the consultant to propose key indicators to be derived from the ENCVM. The issues of variation of stock (which includes many of the variables required to calculate the “taux de croissance” and “taux d’exploitation”) was considered a priority entry point for data enhancement. The need for a 10 year census to establish livestock baselines was considered critical, supplemented with a periodic but regular survey which re-estimates productivity estimates. The group also agreed that the importance of livestock in Niger and the important role of cross-border trade translates into a regional need to enhance livestock statistics. It was suggested that a regional workshop would be needed to address some of the complexity facing the sector, including options for looking systems of animal traceability in the region.

ANNEX 1. PARTICIPANTS

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