



**Speech of the Acting Director AU-IBAR**

**Parliamentary Agricultural Committee Consultative Workshop on the Dairy Industry Bill, the Livestock Bill, the Livestock Master Plan and Livestock Identification and Traceability Regulations 2021**

**13- 18<sup>th</sup> December 2021, English Point Hotel, Mombasa Kenya**

**Hon. Peter Munya, Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Cooperatives**

**Hon. Silas Kipkoech Tiren, Chairperson of the Parliamentary Agricultural Committee**

**Honorable Members of the Parliamentary Agricultural Committee**

**Mr. Harry Kimtai, Principal Secretary, State Department of Livestock**

**Madam Margaret Kibogy, Managing Director Kenya Dairy Board**

**Dr. Christopher Wanga, Director of Livestock Policy Research and Regulations, SDL**

**Members of the Task Force on the Kenya Dairy Industry Bill**

**Officials from the Republic of Kenya Parliament**

**Officials from the Kenya Dairy Board**

**Officials from the State Department of Livestock**

**Members of the Task Force on the Kenya Livestock Master Plan**

**Representatives of Livestock Sector Actors in all your respective capacities**

**Fellow Colleagues from AU-IBAR**

**Distinguished Guests**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**All Protocol Observed**

I am greatly honoured to make these remarks as we start this **Parliamentary Agricultural Committee Consultative Workshop on the Dairy Industry Bill, the Livestock Bill, the Livestock Master Plan and Livestock Identification and Traceability Regulations 2021**

AU-IBAR, a technical institution of the African Union Commission, is mandated to lead the development of animal resources on the Africa continent for the well-being of Africa's people.

This month AU-IBAR marks 70 years of its existence since 1951, pre-dating most modern African states!

We also celebrate the eradication of rinderpest ten years ago. This scourge decimated herds and livestock based livelihoods across the continent, leading to massive death of as much as over 70% of the population in the most severely affected communities due to the ensuing famines, and contributing to the shaping of the geo-political boundaries and dynamics of African nations.

**Honourable Minister, Distinguished Guests,**

This is a joint activity of the Kenya Dairy Board and the AU-IBAR Sustainable Development of Livestock for Livelihoods in Africa Project (the Live2Africa Project). We register appreciation of the funding for this consultation from the European Union.

The Live2Africa Project is one of the first initiatives of AU-IBAR towards implementation of the continental aspects of the twenty year Livestock Development Strategy for Africa. The Live2Africa Project takes cognizance of the immense livelihood contribution and business opportunities that the livestock sector presents with the high and rising demand for animal source foods, low per capita consumption against globally recommended standards, and the deficit in supply on the continent that is largely met by importation.

The Live2Africa Project contributes to building systemic capacity for an enabling environment for growth of the livestock sector; and is taking catalytic action along priority regional value chains to trigger both commercialization and inclusive sector transformation for at scale increase in livestock production, productivity, value addition and trade.

In 2019 at a Stakeholder Consensus Building Exercise stakeholders selected the regional dairy value chain as the focus of the Live2Africa Project intervention in East Africa. Dairy is one of the fastest growing and most dynamic sectors in this region, which is collectively the leading milk-producing region in Africa.

**Honourable Minister, Distinguished Guests,**

AU-IBAR has a long and productive relationship with the Government of Kenya, which has hosted it since its inception.

Of recent AU-IBAR supported the consultative processes to strengthen stakeholder inputs into the Dairy Regulation and a Consultation, Sensitization and Capacity Building Exercise with the Parliamentary Committee on Delegated Legislation, a statutory requirement in the process of development of the Dairy Regulations.

Currently we are proud to partner with Government of Kenya on a number of important activities including the review and update of the Kenya dairy value chain as part of the wider East Africa process of upgrading and strengthening the competitiveness of the regional dairy value chain, development of a harmonized regional dairy value chain development strategy, and institutionalization of an East Africa Dairy Regulatory Authorities Forum within the EAC Secretariat, for greater coordination of regulatory matters in the region.

**Honourable Minister, Distinguished Guests,**

AU-IBAR is, with other partners ILRI, USAID, Kenya Markets Trust, and FAO supporting development of Kenya's Livestock Master. Kenya is only the fourth AU Member State to develop a Master Plan after Ethiopia, Tanzania and Rwanda. The approach that Kenya has taken combines developing a credible database with rigorous analysis and forecasting along ten priority value chains, and development of a dynamic and functional investment portal that will provide access to investment data and information through digital apps accessible to all levels of investors.

This is a highly unique approach that aligns to not only the fact that Kenya is a second world economy, targeting an industrialized livestock sector, but also moves away from archived data to more robust approaches that translate sectoral policies strategies and evidenced based data into information that shapes better and more targeted decision making. This approach resonates well with Kenya's devolved governance structure, and should spur the growth of livestock industries in the country.

Honourable Minister, Distinguished Guests,

Kenya is a leading country in Africa's dairy sector, and other livestock sub-sectors. Kenya was the first country to full ratify the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement which opens up the 1.2 billion continental market. Currently within the East Africa region only one percent of the milk produced is being traded, and East Africa region itself, is not consuming dairy products at the recommended global level although Kenya is much better than other countries. These are immense opportunities for growing the dairy sector and for income and economic gains that can only be benefitted from through support from legislative and regulatory frameworks.

**Honourable Minister, Distinguished Guests,**

This week the high level Technical and Ministerial level meetings of the Fourth Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment to consider proposals for decisions to be presented to the Heads of State and Government Summit early next year.

I am pleased to let you know that among other contributions, AU-IBAR will present very strong evidence based pleas for greater political will to increase public sector investment in the livestock sector. AU-IBAR lead a lobby to have the Biennial Review Report, and in particular the data for the Africa Agriculture Transformation Score Card disaggregated. This was successful and allowed for more incisive analysis and greater visibility of the livestock sector and its issues.

The 2021 Biennial Review Report indicates that African governments and development partners are under spending on the livestock sector constraining its capacity to contribute to critical development and economic objectives. Indeed without increasing spending on the livestock sector, Africa will not meet the 2025 Malabo Declaration Goals.

Currently only three Member States are spending 30% of the agricultural budgets on livestock as recommended by the Livestock Development Strategy for Africa, and intensity of spending on the sector, an indication of the percentage of the value added by the sector that is re-invested into livestock, is way below the recommended 19%. We will highlight some areas including elusive nutrition goals where it is necessary to bolster the capacity of the livestock sector if Malabo Declaration goals are to be met.

We urge AU Member States to consider the evidence and strongly support the recommendations to increase expenditure to levels commensurate to the significant contributions and potential of the livestock sector.

**Honourable Minister, Distinguished Guests**

This is an important consultative Workshop that brings important bills for consideration and a plea for greater support for the Development of the Kenya Livestock Master Plan.

I wish to reiterate AU-IBAR's support for this high level consultative process and wish you productive deliberations.

AU-IBAR remains seized upon continuing to work with the Government of Kenya and all livestock sector actors to develop the animal resources in this country.

Thank you for your kind attention.