



AFRICAN UNION

**INTERAFRICAN BUREAU  
FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES**

# **REPORT OF THE AU-IBAR CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE ANIMAL RESOURCES SECTOR IN AFRICA AND IDENTIFICATION OF MITIGATION MEASURES**

*E-conference convened on the 21<sup>st</sup> May 2020: 13HRS (EAT)*

***Towards a Coordinated Continental Approach to  
Mitigating COVID-19 Impacts in Africa's Animal Resources for  
Continuity and Enhanced Contribution of the Sector***





## FOREWARD

There are all indications that the spread of COVID-19 in Africa is accelerating. This comes at a time when African Union Member States are seeking a way forward to unlock their economies from the severely restrictive containment measures that followed the announcement of the first cases on the continent. It calls for a very delicate balance between the first duty to protect human health and lives from a disease we have witnessed ravage economies across the world, and averting a serious food and nutrition crisis and potential economic collapse. Decisions must be buttressed by a keen understanding of the immediate impacts that the containment measures have had on the economies, and by informed predictions of the near future, medium and long term impacts even as the situation continues to unfold and remains fluid.

I wish to highly commend the African Union InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), an institution of the African Union Commission mandated to lead on the development of continent's animal resources sector, for convening an E-Consultation on 21st May 2020 to initiate a continental process of elucidating how the pandemic has impacted on the Animal Resources sector, on which over one third of the continent's population depends for livelihoods, food and nutrition security and incomes. This Report, albeit with limited, yet very insightful quantitative data, provides a very powerful lens on how COVID-19 containment measures have impacted Africa's animal resources sector, illuminating the critical emerging issues, highlighting the need for urgent emergency response, and strategic action to ensure continuity and revitalization of this important sector.

Interventions by Member States showed that the approach to containment in relation to the animal resources sector was varied; and the policy decisions contributed to the outcomes for the animal resources sector. Where Member States categorized the animal resources sector as essential services, and or took additional actions to cushion the sectors, the impacts were less pronounced and less disruptive, and in some cases a surplus was realized. In most Member States however restrictive containment measures rapidly curtailed or restricted activities in the animal resources sector, leading to severe shock with reports of loss of jobs and livelihoods. Weaknesses in supply and food chain exposed by the situation mean that there will be increases in food and nutrition insecurity. The vulnerability of pastoralists, fisher-folk, urban and rural poor, and of youth and women who are in largely informal employment is sharply highlighted.

Member States have appealed for urgent support to undertake critical emergency functions including vaccination and surveillance to prevent livestock disease outbreaks, and for technical backstopping to enhance response planning and implementation of mitigation measures. The food safety and hygiene concerns related to the sector, and now amplified by the zoonotic origins of COVID-19, lend urgency to the need implement a one-health approach. Harmonization of measures and protocols to vitalize supply and food chains through intra, inter-regional and continental trade, as stipulated in the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement, is essential.

Stakeholders emphasize that this pandemic, and other on-going stresses including floods, droughts and locusts, demand a re-think towards re-engineering the sector for greater functionality and efficiency, and re-positioning to harness opportunities. Comprehensive approaches to disaster response and resilience building are imperative for preparedness to more confidently address future threats.

African Union recognizes and appreciates the support received from Strategic Partners, as development grants, soft loans to Member States and business financing for the private sector. This Report underscores the need to provide emergency funding to protect services of a public good nature, for business continuity, and for social protection of vulnerable groups. Funding is needed to enable the sector rebound. I once again call for Member States to prioritize their animal resources sector so that it can receive commensurate support as stimulus packages are rolled out. Diversion of funding from existing animal resources sector programs and projects should be stemmed.

I look forward to the results of the Rapid Assessment on the Impact of COVID-19 on the Animal Resources Sector that AU-IBAR is conducting, that will integrate findings from studies RECs, MS and other stakeholders have undertaken to strengthen understanding of the impacts on the sector. Harmonized frameworks to monitor efficacy of mitigation measures going forward should also be developed so that response plans address felt needs and emerging issues. Last but not least, this Report underscores the critical importance for coordinated efforts to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in the animal resources sector at national, regional and continental level.

Please receive my assurance that the African Union Commission, through the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture remains ceased upon its obligation and commitment to unequivocally support Africa's animal resources sector.

**H. E. Ambassador Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko**

***Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission***

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>FOREWARD</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>LIST OF ACRONYMS</b>	<b>vii</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>	<b>ix</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>I. BACKGROUND</b>	<b>I</b>
1.1 <i>The Core Importance and Contribution of Animal Resources to Livelihoods, Food and Nutrition Security, Employment, Incomes and Economic Growth in Africa</i>	<i>I</i>
1.2 <i>Convening a Continental Dialogue to Better Understand the Impacts of COVID-19 towards an Evidence Based and Coordinated Mitigation for Continuity and Enhanced Contribution of the Animal Resources Sector</i>	<i>I</i>
<b>2. OPENING SPEECHES AND SCENE SETTING</b>	<b>3</b>
2.1 <i>Remarks by Professor Ahmed ElSawalhy, Director of the African Union – InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources</i>	<i>3</i>
2.2 <i>Statement by the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Republic of South Africa, the current Chair of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment</i>	<i>4</i>
2.3 <i>Opening Speech by the Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture H.E. Ambassador Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko</i>	<i>4</i>
2.4 <i>Scene Setting Background Presentation by AU-IBAR on the Impacts of COVID-19 on the Animal Resources Sector in Africa and Proposal for a Coordinated Continental Mitigation Effort</i>	<i>5</i>
<b>3. STATEMENTS AND INTERVENTIONS FROM VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS</b>	<b>6</b>
3.1 <i>Statements from Regional Economic Communities</i>	<i>6</i>
3.1.1 <i>Statement by the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)</i>	<i>6</i>
3.1.2 <i>Statement by the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)</i>	<i>7</i>
3.1.3 <i>Statement by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)</i>	<i>8</i>
3.1.4 <i>Statement by the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA)</i>	<i>8</i>
3.1.5 <i>Statement by the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC)</i>	<i>8</i>
3.2 <i>Experiences and Responses of Member States to the impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Key Issues Arising</i>	<i>9</i>
3.2.1 <i>Cameroon</i>	<i>12</i>
3.2.2 <i>Central Africa Republic</i>	<i>15</i>
3.2.3 <i>Democratic Republic of Congo</i>	<i>15</i>

3.2.4	Gabon	16
3.2.5	Kenya	16
3.2.6	Egypt	17
3.2.7	Morocco	17
3.2.8	Mauritania	18
3.2.9	Tunisia	18
3.2.10	Madagascar	19
3.2.11	Seychelles	19
3.2.12	South Africa	20
3.2.13	Cabo Verde	20
3.2.14	Ghana	21
3.2.15	Niger	22
3.2.16	Nigeria	23
3.2.17	Senegal	24
<b>4</b>	<b>INTERVENTIONS FROM CONTINENTAL ANIMAL RESOURCES PLATFORMS AND ASSOCIATIONS</b>	<b>25</b>
4.1	African Apiculture Platform (AAP)	25
4.2	African Women in Animal Resources Farming and Agribusiness (AWARFA-N)	25
4.3	African Youth in Livestock, Fisheries and Aquaculture Incubators Network (AYL-FAIN)	26
4.4	Confederation Africaine des Organizations de Peche Artisanale (CAOPA)	26
4.5	Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO)	26
4.6	African Association of Veterinary Statutory Bodies (2-AVSB)	26
<b>5</b>	<b>STATEMENTS BY STRATEGIC PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS</b>	<b>27</b>
5.1	African Development Bank	27
5.2	European Union	28
5.3	Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)	28
<b>6.</b>	<b>PROPOSED CONTINENTAL RAPID ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON AFRICA'S ANIMAL RESOURCES AND DOCUMENTATION OF MITIGATION MEASURES</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>KEY ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>CLOSING REMARKS</b>	<b>33</b>
	<b>ANNEX</b>	<b>34</b>
	Annex I: E-Conference Agenda	34

## LIST OF ACRONYMS

2A2E-V	African Association of Veterinary Education Establishments
2A-VSB	African Association of Veterinary Statutory Bodies
AAP	African Apiculture Platform
AHSA	Animal Health Strategy for Africa
AFCR	Africa Food Crisis Response
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement
AfDB	African Development Bank
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
AU-IBAR	African Union InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources
AU-PANVAC	African Union Pan African Vaccines Centre
AU-PATTEC	African Union Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign
ASF	African Swine Fever
AWARFA-N	African Women in Animal Resources Farming and Agribusiness Network
AWSA	Animal Welfare Strategy for Africa
AYL-FAIN	African Youth in Livestock, Fisheries and Aquaculture Incubators Network
CAOPA	Confederation Africaine des Organizations de Peche Artisanale
CAR	Central Africa Republic
CDC	Center for Disease Control and Prevention
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CORET	Confederation of Traditional Herder Organizations in Africa
COVID-19	Corona virus disease (2019)
CRF	COVID-19 Rapid Response Facility (AfDB)
DDPIA(Cameroon)	Directorate for Development of Animal Production and Industries
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
ESADA	Eastern and Southern Africa Dairy Association
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCFA	Central Africa Franc
FISH GOV	Strengthening Institutional Capacity to Enhance Governance of the Fisheries Sector in Africa Project
FMARD	Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (Nigeria)
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
H.E	Her Excellency
HPAI	Highly Pathogenic Asian Avian Influenza
ICT	Information Communication Technologies
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IGAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IsDB	Islamic Development Bank
JTTF	Joint Technical Task Force (Nigeria)
LiDeSA	Livestock Development Strategy for Africa

L4LP	Livestock for Livelihoods Project
Live2Africa Project	Sustainable Development of Livestock for Livelihoods in Africa Project
LVFO	Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MS	Member States
NAIPS	National Agricultural Investment Plans
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OIE	World Organization for Animal Health
PFPA	Policy Framework for Pastoralism in Africa
PPR	Peste des Petits Ruminants
PROPAC	Plateforme Regionale des Organisations Paysannes d’Afrique Centrale
REC	Regional Economic Community
RMCs	Regional Member Countries (of the African Development Bank)
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
STC	Specialized Technical Committee
TLU	Tropical Livestock Unit
UA	Units of Account (AfDB)
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UMA	Arab Maghreb Union
WB	World Bank

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This Report captures the four-hour deliberations at the virtual 'AU-IBAR Consultative Meeting on the Impact of COVID-19 on the Animal Resources Sector in Africa and Identification of Mitigation Measures' held on 21st May 2020.

The E-Meeting was attended by 212 stakeholders from 50 countries, including 47 African Union Member States represented by 9 Permanent Secretaries, 29 Chief Veterinary Officers, 42 Directors of Animal Production and 32 Directors of Fisheries, among other technocrats. Five Regional Economic Communities COMESA, ECCAS, IGAD, UMA and SADC; specialized regional institutions in animal resources, representatives of Continental and Regional Animal Resources Associations, value chain actors, strategic partners and technical agencies of the African Union Commission were among the participants.

The outstanding attendance was only surpassed by the excellent, meaningful interventions from across the continent. The African Union Commission (AUC) Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture H.E. Ambassador Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko and the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Republic of South Africa who is the current Chair of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment, Her Excellency (H.E) Ms Angela Thoko Didiza provided much appreciated political direction for the discussions.

The interventions by all Contributors, which were well received, and form the core of this Report, provided powerful initial insights into the impacts of COVID-19 containment measures on Africa's animal resources sector, the emergency responses and mitigation measures needed or being implemented. I thank our Strategic Partners for enthusiastically participating and engaging in this process, and for providing guidance to enhance animal resources sector access to stimulus packages key to protecting and revitalizing the sector. I take this opportunity to also express my appreciation to the AU-IBAR Team which rose to the occasion to ably hold its first large high level virtual Meeting.

The Rapid Assessment, to provide a better understanding of the situation in the animal resources sector, is well underway and questionnaires have been shared with participants of the meeting and other sector actors. Stakeholders will be invited to validate the results. AU-IBAR will also draw on your support as we go forward with plans to prepare joint Programs in partnership with Member States, RECs, private sector, producers, Strategic Partners and other actors to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 towards building a more resilient, productive and sustainable animal resources sector for tomorrow and the future. Your contributions will be invaluable in defining the Programs.

We once again appreciate the overwhelming support we have received for this initiative.

**Prof. Ahmed Elsalwaly**

**Director and Head of Mission, African Union – InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On 21st May 2020 the African Union InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) convened a virtual meeting the 'AU-IBAR Consultative Meeting on the Impact of COVID-19 on the Animal Resources Sector in Africa and Identification of Mitigation Measures' with the objectives (i) engaging stakeholders for a better understanding of the impacts of COVID-19 on the animal resources sector; responses to the crisis, the core issues and identification of mitigation measures (ii) Invitation of stakeholder views on an AU-IBAR led development of a joint Programme to support coordinated efforts to respond to, and mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on Africa's animal resources sector; and (iii) Presentation of the proposed approach and methodology to conduct a continental Rapid Assessment to capture the immediate, medium and long-term impacts of COVID-19 on the animal resources sector, and to map felt needs, gaps and mitigation measures.

The Consultative Meeting was attended by 212 participants, from 50 States, including 47 Member States (MSs) of the African Union, represented by 9 Permanent Secretaries, 29 Chief Veterinary Officers, 32 Directors of Fisheries, and 42 Directors of Animal Production. Five Regional Economic Communities (RECs) participated i.e., COMESA, ECCAS, IGAD, UMA and SADC. Also represented were specialized regional institutions in animal resources, representatives of Continental and Regional Agribusiness Associations and animal resources value chain actors. Strategic partners who participated included the European Union, African Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank and the International Fund for Agricultural Development. African Union Commission was represented by its technical agencies AU-PANVAC, AU-PATTEC and Africa CDC and AU-IBAR and two Consultants.

As an introduction to the Consultative Meeting, the Director of AU-IBAR Prof. Ahmed Elsayalhy expounded on the critical roles AU-IBAR has played notably in addressing epidemics such as rinderpest, trypanosomiasis, avian influenza (HPAI or Bird flu). The Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Republic of South Africa who is the current Chair of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment, Her Excellency (H.E) Ms Angela Thoko Didiza referring to the Declaration on Food Security and Nutrition passed at the AU Ministers of Agriculture virtual meeting convened on 16 April 2020 underscored that an in-depth understanding of the ramifications of COVID-19 and coordinated mechanisms were key to controlling the pandemic and addressing its impacts.

The African Union Commission (AUC) Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture H.E. Ambassador Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, in opening the Meeting, highlighted the the impacts of COVID-19 on agricultural supply chains and food chains leading to food and nutrition insecurity and loss of livelihoods and incomes. She reiterated that the agricultural sector is at the frontline of mitigating the collateral socio-economic impacts as African economies are predominantly dependent on agriculture. It is therefore imperative that there are concerted efforts to better understand the impacts of COVID-19 on the animal resources sector to provide an evidence base to shape appropriate mitigation measures and inform their implementation, The Commissioner commended

AU-IBAR for providing the leadership toward a coordinated approach to addressing COVID-19 impacts in the animal resources sector; and underscored role of the African Continental free Trade Agreement, which represents the biggest single market globally, as a strong rationale for taking a continental approach.

An AU-IBAR technical presentation 'Impacts of COVID-19 on the Animal Resources Sector in Africa and Proposal for a Coordinated Continental Mitigation Effort' provided a background and set the scene for statements from RECs and Member States and interventions by representatives of continental animal resources Platforms and Associations and Strategic Partners.

RECs called for the recognition of the significant and pervading collateral economic damage of the COVID-19 containment measures with both immediate and potentially far reaching impacts and ramifications; the need for a comprehensive approach to address the multiple threats to food security in the regions; protection of food and nutrition security, especially of the vulnerable; targeted support for vulnerable populations, notably pastoralists and agro-pastoralists; and the need for a one health approach in light of the zoonotic threats inherent to Africa's animal resources sector. They underscored the importance of quantitative assessments and coordinated efforts in addressing the impacts of the pandemic; deepening of regional economic integration and harmonized guidelines to facilitate cross-border trade in animals and animal products as key to addressing gaps in supply and food chains. Going forward, comprehensive and robust response plans are essential in preparation for future pandemics and other emergencies.

Seventeen Member States: Central Africa: Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Gabon; East Africa: Kenya; North Africa: Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia; Southern Africa: Madagascar, Seychelles and South Africa; and West Africa: Cabo Verde, Ghana, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal outlined the various impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and containment measures on the animal resources sector in their countries, and the different responses and mitigation measures being taken. Three Member States, Cameroon, Niger and Seychelles, provided some quantitative data derived from initial assessments that give a powerful lens on the impact of the COVID-19 on the animal resources sector in Africa. Niger and Seychelles also provided response plans, indicating priorities, with Niger costing priorities.

Continental Platforms, including the African Association for Veterinary Statutory Bodies (AA-VSB), women, youth, apiculture and fisheries representative associations provided strong insights on the adverse effects COVID-19 has had on practical aspects of the animal resources sector across the continent, and the emerging opportunities for innovation as sector actors responded.

AUC/AU-IBAR Partners, the African Development Bank (AfDB), the European Union (EU) and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB,) shared the focal areas of their stimulus packages to support African countries address COVID-19 impacts; and outlined how MS, RECs and animal resources sector actors can access the packages.

## Key Issues from the Discussions

This initial Consultation provided powerful insights into the impact of containment measures on the animal resources sector; the responses, and the mitigation measures being implemented or planned. The limited quantitative data from three Member States substantiated the observations across the continent. Key issues were:

- i. Containment measures differed and the underlying policy decisions in relation to the productive sectors had direct ramifications on the animal resources sector. MS that designated the animal resources sector as essential services, and or as a priority sector for food security and economic growth took measures that protected livelihoods and allowed some level of business continuity.
- ii. The impacts were felt immediately, are widespread, disruptive, and potentially far reaching: MS reported as much as 20 to 60% losses in production and incomes, across value chains. Weaknesses in supply chains and food chains were particularly highlighted; as were the changes in consumer patterns; the sharp rise in food and nutrition insecurity, with Niger predicting 17.4– 24.8% of its population food secure in the first six months of the pandemic; and the vulnerability of pastoralists, fisher-folk, urban and rural poor, and of youth and women who are in largely informal employment.
- iii. Priority Areas for Emergency Response include, among others: Institutional support and technical backstopping to Member States to prepare and implement response plans; protection of food and nutrition security and livelihoods; Emergency vaccination and surveillance and access to feed resources; Support to small producers and SME; and continued budget support and funding of animal resources sector Projects and Programs
- iv. Priority Approaches to Mitigation include, among others: Mainstreaming of animal resources in stimulus packages; a one health approach; and Advocacy for intra and inter-regional platforms for trade to meet food gaps, revitalize supply chains, and exchange of technologies and information.

## Recommendations

Priority Actions to Better Understand the Impacts of COVID-19, and Protect the Contribution and Continuity of Africa's Animal Resources Sector to Socio-Economic Development and Growth

- Recognition of the importance of the significant contribution Africa's animal resources make to livelihoods, food and nutrition security, incomes and economic growth of many AU MS and especially to rural and vulnerable populations: Member States should make adequate budgetary provision in support of the animal resources sector.
- Maintain the animal resources sector (supply chains, production and processing activities and infrastructure, public and private veterinary, extension and other services, food chains, and various markets) as an essential and frontline services in the fight against COVID-19 and in mitigating its economic impacts
- There is an urgent need to better understand the impacts of COVID-19 on economic sectors for evidence based decision making: need for a harmonized framework for assessing the impacts, implementation of response and efficacy of mitigation measures
- Need for a continental declaration of the control of animal and zoonotic diseases as a 'public good'

- Capacity building and back stopping of Members States in development of response and mitigation plans, resource mobilization and implementation

### **Emergency/ Immediate Responses**

Emergency responses are needed to avert food and nutrition insecurity, protect vulnerable populations and stem loss of livelihoods and jobs; and ensure continuity of businesses and supportive programs and projects

- Coordinated actions in the animal resources sector across the continent to be initiated under the leadership of AU-IBAR
- Need for constant engagement of the animal resources sector actors including private sector and primary producers on containment measures
- Support rapid assessments of the impact on the animal resources sector and ensure monitoring of impacts and efficacy of response measures given the fluid situation and as containment measures change
- Emergency vaccination campaigns and collective treatment of livestock, and support for continued animal health surveillance and other public health services
- MS, RECs, AU-IBAR and other stakeholders to mobilise resources to ensure the contribution of the animal resources sector to livelihoods, food and nutritional security is protected and supported;
- Strategic funding partners to recognize the critical contribution of the animal resources sector to food and nutrition security, livelihoods, income generation and employment and prioritise continued and increased funding to the sector
- Social protection through cash transfers or in-kind support of vulnerable populations and producers whose access to markets is curtailed
- Financial packages to support supply side actors continue and increase their activities including tax relief on animal feeds and other inputs, and promote subsidized payments (e.g insurance)
- Prioritization of funding to buttress and protect food supply chains
- Enhance diversification and transformation of products and marketing channels
- Given the high mobility and human interaction in the animal resources sector, and the handling of animals and perishable goods, protocols be developed to ensure safety of actors and enhance implementation of sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures and food safety and hygiene
- Tailored financial packages to support the animal resources sector actors along all value chains e.g., deferment of loan payments, extension of suitable loan packages
- Use of ICT technologies for tele-vet medicine services to increase access to veterinary and extension services
- Promote E-commerce as a means of reducing the impact of COVID-19 on trade and marketing of animal commodities
- Involve African youth at the forefront of post COVID-19 animal resources development to provide jobs, and support innovation to generate technologies that support new ways of doing business

## **Approaches to Strengthen Mitigation of COVID-19 Impacts**

- Strengthen the epidemiological surveillance network and build capacities of veterinary laboratories and infrastructure
- Leverage among MS and RECs for increased for intra and inter-regional investment and cooperation to address supply and food chain gaps
- Support trade corridors to ease access to markets through the AfCFTA Agreement
- Systemic capacity building on policies, institutions, human resources and infrastructure for revitalization of the animal resources value chains in totality
- MS and RECs to adopt and implement policies, strategies and legislation on One Health
- AU-IBAR and RECs to establish strategic actions that engage the youth and women in inputs and service provision
- AU-IBAR with its development partners to build the capacities of the research institutes in African continent where needed for enabling them to develop and produce vaccines and drugs for combatting disease epidemics
- Coordinated action in the animal resources sector across the continent to be initiated under the leadership of AU-IBAR
- Build systemic capacity to delivery public and private technical livestock services

## **Accessing COVID-19 Stimulus Packages and Embedding More Strategic Long Term Approaches**

- MS to elevate animal resources as a priority and frontline sector for addressing and mitigating the impacts of COVID-19 in order to mainstream the sector to attract support from stimulus packages to help recovery and build resilience;
- Support MS to adopt long term strategies including CAADP/NAIPs; LiDeSA, AHSA, AWSA, PFPA
- A comprehensive approach is needed to address the multiple threats to food security in the regions including COVID-19, droughts, floods and locusts
- Need for MSs and RECS to reposition themselves to harness opportunities and address gaps presented by the pandemic, and to draw on experiences and lessons learned to re-engineer the animal resources sector post COVID-19

In closing the Meeting, H.E Commissioner DREA Ambassador Sacko commended the Meeting as an important platform that has generated useful insights for addressing COVID-19 impacts in the animal resources sector. Rapid Assessment provide a precedent for other agriculture sector assessments of COVID-19 impacts. The Commissioner called on Strategic Partners to fully support the animal resources sector, and lent support to the call by AfDB, a Member of the continental Task Force to address COVID-19 impacts, urging Member States to prioritize the livestock sector as a means to position it for mainstreaming to receive substantive support under the stimulus packages. The output from the Meeting and the Rapid Assessment will feed into the Ministerial Meeting on inter-African trade to be organized in a month to accelerate the implementation of the AfCFTA

# I. BACKGROUND

## *1.1 The Core Importance and Contribution of Animal Resources to Livelihoods, Food and Nutrition Security, Employment, Incomes and Economic Growth in Africa*

Many countries in Africa are currently suffering from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic which started in China late in December 2019. Apart from the direct public health impacts, the pandemic is creating a food security crises and serious socio-economic consequences in many countries. The various containment measures instituted by many African Union (AU) Member States (MS) in response to COVID-19 have resulted in practical and functional challenges for Africa's animal resources sector.

Endowed with about one third of the world's total livestock population, substantial fisheries and aquaculture resources, thriving honey bee populations, significant unconventional livestock populations and wildlife resources, Africa's animal resources sector is core to livelihoods and a driver of growth on the continent. With over 350 million people, a third of the continent's population directly dependent on sector, livestock contribute 20 to 80% of the agricultural value added in most African economies. For at least 18 countries in Africa, increases in value-added per Tropical Livestock Unit (TLU) is a driver of GDP per capita growth<sup>1</sup>.

Most animal resources sector actors are small holder farmers, pastoralists, agro-pastoralists, fisher-folk and beekeepers who are variously reliant on the sector for food and nutrition security, incomes, it's buffering capacity during periods of stress, and as a vehicle for savings and insurance. Within the productive sectors, the livestock sector has the greatest capacity to stimulate a multiplier effect with an estimated \$2.9 are generated in primary livestock production and \$5.9 in processing for every additional \$1 invested.<sup>2</sup> The sector also has high spillover effects, providing strong stimulus for growth in other agricultural sectors, manufacturing and service sectors.<sup>3</sup> With a bulk of rural producers and informal sector actors, the sector provides an avenue for employment especially of women and youth and for more equitable distribution of benefits.

## *1.2 Convening a Continental Dialogue to Better Understand the Impacts of COVID-19 towards an Evidence Based and Coordinated Mitigation for Continuity and Enhanced Contribution of the Animal Resources Sector*

In line with its mandate<sup>4</sup> to provide leadership for the development of Africa's animal resources for the wellbeing and prosperity of the people in the Member States of the African Union, the African Union-InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) has initiated efforts towards a coordinated continental approach to better understand the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the animal resources and identify practical solutions to address the impacts.

<sup>1</sup> Pica, G., U. Pica-Ciamarra and J. Otte. 2008. *The Livestock Sector in the World Development Report 2008. Reassessing the Policy Priorities. PPLPI Research Report No. 08-07*, FAO Rome.

<sup>2</sup> Roland-Holst et al. FAO.

<sup>3</sup> Roland-Holst et al. FAO.

<sup>4</sup> African Union-InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), a specialized Technical Office of the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA) of the African Union Commission (AUC) is mandated to support and coordinate the sustainable development and utilization of animal resources (livestock, fisheries and wildlife) to enhance nutrition and food security and contribute to the wellbeing and prosperity of the people in the Member States of the African Union (AU)

To commence this initiative, on 21st May 2020, AU-IBAR convened an online Consultative Meeting to initiate engagement of key animal resources sector actors on the Impact of COVID-19 on the Animal Resources Sector in Africa, and on the currently employed and potential Mitigation Measures. The platform also provided an opportunity to share the methodology for the Rapid Assessment and begin the discussion on a suitable approach for coordinated Programs and resource mobilization.

The Consultative Meeting was attended by 212 participants, including the African Union Commission (AUC) Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture H.E. Ambassador Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko; the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Republic of South Africa who is the current Chair of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment, Her Excellency (H.E) Ms Angela Thoko Didiza; the Director, Directorate of Rural Economy and Agriculture Dr. Godfrey Bahigwa; and the Director AU-IBAR Prof. Ahmed Elsayalhy.

Member States were represented by nine (9) Permanent Secretaries from Cameroun, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya (both Livestock and Fisheries), Egypt, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe; 29 Chief Veterinary Officers; 32 Directors of Fisheries; 42 Directors of Animal Production, among others. Representatives from five Regional Economic Communities (RECs) participated i.e., COMESA, ECCAS, IGAD, UMA and SADC. Also represented were specialized regional institutions in animal resources CORET and PROPAC among others; and representatives of Continental and Regional Agribusiness Associations and animal resources value chain actors including 2A2E-V, 2A-VSB, AAP, AWARFA-N, AYL-FAIN, CAOPA, ESADA and LVFO. Strategic partners who participated included Representatives of the European Union (EU), African Development Bank (AfDB), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). African Union Commission was represented by its technical agencies AU-PANVAC, AU-PATTEC and Africa CDC, AU-IBAR and two Consultants.

Participants represented 50 of the 55 African Union Member States (MS): Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, Comoros, Congo, Republic of the Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Eswatini, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe. Three other countries represented were Italy, Saudi Arabia and France. The List of Participants is appended.

## 2. OPENING SPEECHES AND SCENE SETTING

### 2.1 *Remarks by Professor Ahmed Elswalhy, Director of the African Union – InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources*

As an introduction to the Consultative Meeting, the Director of AU-IBAR Prof. Ahmed Elswalhy detailed the mandate and achievements of AU-IBAR since its inception in 1951 in leading the development of Africa's animal resources sector. Starting with a core focus of leading continental Programs on the prevention, control and eradication of major animal diseases, the institution has expanded into animal production and livelihood support, the coordination of African common positions on animal health standards and food safety standards to facilitate trade and marketing, the conservation and management of Africa's animal genetic resources, one health, agribusiness development especially for women and youth, catalysing growth in priority regional value chains and blue economy. The institution having broadened its portfolio from a focus on small and large ruminants to cover apiculture, fisheries and aquaculture, poultry, red meat and wildlife to better reflect the broader animal resources sector.

The Director expounded on the critical roles AU-IBAR has played in convening and organizing stakeholders, continental strategy development, policy, legislative and regulatory reforms, resource mobilization, building institutions and strategic partnerships, human resource development, technical backstopping, communication and knowledge development and monitoring, learning and evaluation, for more coordinated and effective response to achieve common objectives notably in addressing epidemics such as rinderpest, trypanosomiasis, avian influenza (HPAI or Bird flu),

With this background, the Director outlined the key objectives of the Meeting (Box 1):

**Box 1: Objectives of the AU-IBAR Consultative Meeting on the Impact of COVID-19 on the Animal Resources Sector in Africa and Identification of Mitigation Measures**

- i. Engagement of stakeholders to better understand the impacts of COVID-19 on the animal resources sector, responses to the crisis, the core issues and identification of mitigation measures
- ii. Invitation of stakeholder views on an AU-IBAR led development of a joint Programme to support coordinated efforts to respond to, and mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on Africa's animal resources sector
- iii. Presentation of the proposed approach and methodology to conduct a continental Rapid Assessment to capture the immediate, medium and long-term impacts of COVID-19 on the animal resources sector, and to map felt needs, gaps and mitigation measures.

The Director emphasized the need for concerted and coordinated efforts at national, regional and continental level for effective response of animal resources sector to the COVID-19 pandemic; and called on stakeholders to facilitate the Rapid Assessment which was intended to generate critical information to guide the formulation of appropriate interventions.

## ***2.2 Statement by the Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Republic of South Africa, the current Chair of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment***

The Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Republic of South Africa who is the current Chair of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment, Her Excellency (H.E) Ms Angela Thoko Didiza, made reference to the Declaration on Food Security and Nutrition passed at the AU Ministers of Agriculture virtual meeting convened on 16 April 2020. In it the Ministers urged MSs and stakeholders to better expound on the ramifications of COVID-19 and articulate coordinated mechanisms for bringing it under control at all levels.

## ***2.3 Opening Speech by the Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture H. E. Ambassador Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko***

The African Union Commission (AUC) Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture H.E. Ambassador Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko commended AU-IBAR for leadership in convening the Meeting. Highlighting the unprecedented loss of jobs that could plunge millions of Africans back into extreme poverty, and the possibility that African could for the first time experience a recession, she reiterated the importance of the agriculture sector for addressing the impacts of COVID-19.

The Commissioner emphasized the impacts on agricultural supply chains with concomitant effects on value chains. She also highlighted concerns on disruptions in food chains affecting availability, prices and distribution leading to food and nutrition insecurity. While the major focus is on the public health impacts, the agricultural sector is at the frontline of mitigating the collateral socio-economic impacts as African economies are predominantly dependent on agriculture. It is therefore imperative that there are concerted efforts to better understand the impacts of COVID-19 on the animal resources sector and other agricultural sectors to provide an evidence base to inform, shape, and implement appropriate mitigation measures.

The Commissioner commended AU-IBAR for providing the leadership toward a coordinated approach to addressing COVID-19 impacts in the animal resources sector, and highlighted that the implementation of the African Continental free Trade Agreement, which represents the biggest single market globally, as a strong rationale for taking a continental approach.

Ambassador Sacko reiterated the AUC commitment to implement continental actions and called upon partners to provide support to ensure food systems are resilient to prevent a food security crisis. She called for solidarity and coordination as no single country can address the crisis alone and declared the meeting officially opened.

## *2.4 Scene Setting Background Presentation by AU-IBAR on the Impacts of COVID-19 on the Animal Resources Sector in Africa and Proposal for a Coordinated Continental Mitigation Effort*

AU-IBAR presented a background presentation on the Impact of COVID-19 on Africa's Animal Resources Sector. The presentation examined COVID-19 containment measures and their impacts on Africa's animal resources, noting that restrictive and indefinite nature of the measures, were disruptive to the functionality of the sector. The measures support tracking of human health indicators but much less on socio-economic indicators, and yet there is significant collateral economic impact of the pandemic. The Presentation outlined key weaknesses and factors that have rendered the animal resources sector vulnerable to the containment measures. This vulnerability to COVID-19 impacts is further compounded by existing stresses and threats to the sector including droughts, floods and locusts exacerbating the impacts of COVID-19.

AU-IBAR highlighted some emerging issues as the sector responds to COVID-19 such as the transboundary and regional challenges from non-harmonized response approaches and frameworks; the major weaknesses in the supply chains, and the evidence of localization and weakness of food chains, gaps exposed by the impacts of the pandemic, the need for greater reliance on ICT technologies to enhance market access and transformation of products; the low resilience and rebound capacities as the sector faced multiple stresses; and the potentially reduced public and donor funding as funds were diverted to the health crisis.

The Presentation highlighted some of the best practice and lessons learned from how the African animal resources sector has dealt with other continental and global epidemic and issues, among them sustainable political support, joint resource mobilisation, institutional capacity building and private sector involvement, and the mobilization of human, finance and material resources.

The Presentation set out proposals for an AU-IBAR led coordinated continental response approach: (i) a joint continental-regional-MS resource mobilization effort to tap into stimulus packages including grants and loans; (ii) A One-health Approach (iii) Regional value chains approach for key investments (iv) Intra and Inter Regional markets: addressing market and trade gaps and opportunities (v) Harmonization of institutions, policies, legal and regulatory frameworks; and (vi) Medium to long term planning: Adoption and implementation of various AU Policy Frameworks and Strategies including the Livestock Development Strategy for Africa (LiDeSA), the Animal Health Strategy for Africa (AHSA), the Animal Welfare Strategy for Africa (AWSA), the Africa Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA), Policy Framework for Pastoralism in Africa and meaningful inclusion in the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPs).

### 3. STATEMENTS AND INTERVENTIONS FROM VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS

#### 3.1 Statements from Regional Economic Communities

Each REC made a presentation on the impact of COVID-19 and the mitigation measures put in place. The RECs outlined the key impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Member States in the respective regions and these served to highlight the similarities and differences across the regions. The RECs were at different stages of assessment of the impacts, and planning and implementation of the mitigation measures. Box 2 presents some highlights of REC interventions.

#### **Box 2: Regional Economic Communities highlighted:**

- Recognition of the magnitude of the significant and pervading collateral economic damage of the COVID-19 containment measures with both immediate and potentially far reaching impacts and ramifications
- A comprehensive approach is needed to address the multiple threats to food security in the regions including COVID-19, droughts, floods and locusts
- Protection of food and nutrition security, especially of the vulnerable is critical: this requires strategic partnerships and continued funding of the animal resources sector
- Support should target vulnerable populations, notably pastoralists and agro-pastoralists
- The need for a one health approach in light of the zoonotic threats inherent to Africa's animal resources sector
- Assessments of impacts have been largely qualitative. Guidelines for quantification of impacts, and for assessing efficacy of mitigation measures should be developed
- Coordinated interventions, resource mobilization and utilization are critical at national, regional and continental levels
- Deepening of regional economic integration is key to addressing gaps in supply and food chains. Guidelines to facilitate cross border trade in animals and animal products needed.
- Going forward, comprehensive and robust Response plans to address future pandemics and other emergencies are critical

#### 3.1.1 Statement by the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)

COMESA stated that it recognized that the socio-economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic could result to a far more reaching socio-economic impact in addition to the health crisis for the region. The ramifications are being felt by societies and economies at their core, negatively impacting agricultural value chains from production to consumption, with impacts varying from one country to another. Livestock producers, especially pastoralists and agro-pastoralists in arid and semi-arid areas, are severely affected due to the already existing effects of climate change, drought and floods. This makes it more urgent to fast track the Agenda 2063 to mitigate the impacts.

COMESA has undertaken an assessment of the impact of COVID on vulnerable populations. Guidelines to address issues in post-COVID 19 cross-border trade of both agricultural and animal

resources products have been developed, approved and adopted at Ministerial level. COMESA has developed a Food Security Response Plan which aims to avert a food and nutrition insecurity crisis in the region, seeks to contribute to the deepening of regional economic integration through driving sustainable agricultural growth and transformation for improved food security and shared prosperity in the COMESA region. COMESA is seeking partnership with UN-FAO, World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), AU-IBAR, EU, USAID, World Bank (WB) and AfDB to support the livestock industry in the region.

### *3.1.2 Statement by the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)*

The impact of COVID 19 in the ECCAS region like in many parts of the world are at least twofold: Sanitary/health aspects and economic aspects. COVID 19 containment measures enacted by the different governments in the region have made delivery of veterinary services difficult or even impossible particularly for those who live in remote areas, and in particular for pastoralists who are marginalized in terms of public policies and animal health strategies. The restrictions will only serve to worsen the health status of their herds as their access to services are further impeded. The restrictions will affect surveillance and reporting of diseases. Most of the veterinary products that are used for disease prevention (vaccines) and treatment (drugs) are imported, and importation is affected by the severe restrictions on international flights and shipment. The implementation of the road map on Peste de Petits Ruminants (PPR) control and eradication Program will certainly be affected.

All the different segments of livestock value chains have been affected: markets are closed, and as a result, the consumption of food from animal origin has dropped drastically, compounded by the loss of purchasing power as livelihoods have been eroded and jobs lost. This worsening economic outlook is accompanied by short-term and possibly long-term upward pressures on prices of imported products from various sources. Conversely, prices of livestock and products that are produced inside the countries are falling because there is no way to channel these items to urban markets due to the ban or restriction on movement.

ECCAS commended AU-IBAR's leadership in moving the agenda on the development of animal resources in Africa, citing both the strategies elaborated to meet the objectives of Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's); and the many projects and programs to promote animal health and production. ECCAS extended the appreciation to EU that has been a major donor supporting the animal resources sector. ECCAS called for continuity of the AU-IBAR Live2Africa Project interventions which are designed to play a catalytic role in transformation process of the livestock sector in Africa. In the ECCAS region, the poultry eggs value chain was targeted for support: ECCAS called for extension of the Live2Africa Project timeframe to facilitate full implementation of the interventions.

ECCAS also called for continued support by AU-IBAR of the ECCAS Regional Animal Health Center to ensure continuity of monitoring and coordination of animal disease surveillance and strengthen the

capacities of our member states. The Congo Basin Forest, with its rich fauna diversity, is a reservoir of many viruses which have a zoonotic potential. Congo, DRC and Gabon have experienced outbreaks of Ebola; and Cameroon anthrax in the recent past. There is need for support from the international community to heighten surveillance and monitoring of the Congo Basin Forest

At the regional level, the Secretary General of ECCAS has set up a team to draft a strategy paper in order to combat and mitigate the effects of COVID-19. In this strategy significant attention has been given to pastoralists. This consultation should inform the formulation of a strategy to revamp the livestock sector in Africa in general, and the ECCAS region in particular.

### *3.1.3 Statement by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)*

IGAD has taken a comprehensive approach towards addressing the on-going challenges to food security in the region, among them Covid-19, locusts and floods; and has published policy guidelines and strategies to comprehensively address threats to food insecurity in the region. The impact of COVID-19 on all agricultural sectors, including the animal resources sector, in the region has been assessed and validated. IGAD interventions are two pronged: targeting emergency recovery and development, at both regional and national levels.

Coordination of interventions and in resource mobilization and utilization are critical to addressing COVID-19 impacts in the IGAD region. The preliminary assessments of COVID-19 impacts were largely qualitative. There is need to quantify impacts for evidence based decision making. Guidelines to support impact assessment are needed, and the assessments should broaden to evaluate the efficacy of mitigation measures.

### *3.1.4 Statement by the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA)*

Currently drought and COVID-19 are the two most important challenges in the UMA region. MSs in the region are at various levels of responding to the two threats, dictated by the level of capacities in each state. UMA is developing a holistic response plan focused on coordination via the Heads of State in the region. A conference of ministers of health in the region has already been held. Each MS in the region has put in place a response mechanism to COVID-19, drawing participation from all stakeholders including those from the animal resources sector. A cooperation agreement has been signed with partners to jointly respond to the pandemic. UMA plans to develop response plans for future pandemics and emergencies and there is need for stakeholder coordination to address the impact of COVID pandemic

### *3.1.5 Statement by the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC)*

Fisheries and Aquaculture: The COVID-19 pandemic and measures to contain it have negatively impacted on animal resources. Consumer demand for animal sourced products is affected. Restrictions have affected transportation, cross border movements, monitoring and regulation for safe and controlled fishing negatively impacting on the whole supply chain in both fisheries and aquaculture sectors. The result is low outputs from fishermen, fish farmers and fish processors. Attention has

been diverted to dealing with the health crises of the COVID-19 pandemic, undermining regulation of fishing.

The fisheries and aquaculture mitigation measures have been identified and SADC ministers will discuss this and adopt them across the board. Emphasis is placed on the protection of each stage of the supply chain and need for practical solutions. SADC developed harmonized guidelines for transportation and cross-border movement of food and services in the region. COVID-19 outbreaks have been documented on fishing vessels, and landing sites are particularly high risk areas. SADC has initiated the process to conduct a quantitative impact assessment of COVID-19 in the region.

SADC is seeking a harmonized approach to tackling the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, prioritizing the protection of productive sectors and incomes of actors; promotion of nutrition sensitive production and support to ensure continuity and vitalization of supply chains in MSs and the region. The SADC underscores the importance of harmonizing and aligning regional mitigation measures with the continental approach

### **3.2 Experiences and Responses of Member States to the impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Key Issues Arising**

Seventeen Member States; **Central Africa:** Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Gabon; **East Africa:** Kenya; **North Africa:** Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia; **Southern Africa:** Madagascar, Seychelles and South Africa; and **West Africa:** Carbo Verde, Ghana, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal outlined the various impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and containment measures on the animal resources sector in their countries, and the different responses and mitigation measures being taken.

Three Member States provided some quantitative data derived from initial assessments that give a powerful lens on the impact of the COVID-19 on the animal resources sector in Africa. Niger and Seychelles also provided response plans, indicating priorities, with Niger costing priorities.

1. Cameroon: poultry powerhouse in Central Africa, hosting regional hatcheries and 49% of the table egg production Industry
2. Niger: with a predominantly pastoral livestock sector
3. Seychelles: an Island State, and where artisanal and industrial fisheries and aquaculture are the key economic sectors

The institutional and human capacity challenges were identified in some of the national presentations. Key issues were raised on how to re-engineer the livestock sector post-COVID-19. MSs noted the enormous impact on African Economies particularly the animal resources sector and unanimously agreed that collective action was necessary to mitigate the impacts. From the presentations, it was clear that COVID-19 has adversely affected the following: Food and feed supply chains, Veterinary and public health services, Livestock production inputs, Market access, Animal based livelihoods and employment, Marketing and trade of livestock and livestock products, Reduced funding to animal

resources sector and increased foodstuff prices. Some MSs also highlighted a variance of mitigation measures that have been set up. These include Committees for food security; allowing movement of essential goods and plans for long term interventions. Highlights of Member State Interventions are presented in Box 3.

<b>Box 3: Some Highlights from Member State Interventions</b>	
<b>COVID-19 Containment Policy Decisions and their Outcomes on the Animal Resources Sector</b>	
<b>The Three Broad Policy Approaches to Containment Measures</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>
i. Lockdown or restrictions on movement Productive sectors not designated as essential services Low consultation of productive sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abruptly imposed containment measures saw rapid curtailment of activities resulting in moderate to severe shock and widespread disruption</li> </ul>
ii. Lock down or restrictions on movement Productive sectors designated as essential services Some level of consultation of the productive sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some countries undertook prior consultations and allowed actors to take stock and prepare</li> <li>• Essential services status has facilitated continuity of some activities but at reduced level in compliance with social distancing</li> <li>• Impact is varied from low to severe depending on a number of other factors</li> </ul>
iii. Lock down or restrictions on movement Productive sectors designated as critical to food security and economy therefore cushioned from restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sector allowed to function normally with exception of a few activities e.g, in fisheries</li> <li>• Additional funding/ subsidization to support the sector</li> <li>• Realized surplus output from the sector</li> </ul>
<b>General observations on containment policies, and the strategies taken in relation to the animal resources sector</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low consultation of the productive sectors in the process of deciding and implementing the containment measures</li> <li>• The fluid and dynamic situation where containment measures change over time introducing new dimensions, with additional cost implications</li> <li>• The containment measures were imposed within sovereign states and did not take into account the regional functionality of the animal resources sector including access to shared natural resources (grazing, fisheries), supply chains, food chains, movement of labor and services, access to markets</li> <li>• In some MS, restrictions and confinement patterns differed from one region to another</li> <li>• Closure of international and regional borders resulted in an abrupt net cessation of imports critical to productive sectors, importation of animal origin foods and exportation of animals and products</li> <li>• Regular (daily/weekly/monthly) monitoring and reporting of impacts of COVID-19 is focused on human health indicators and much less on socio-economic indicators despite the evidence of major economic impacts</li> <li>• The indefinite nature of the pandemic, with an evident increase of community infections, a major concern of the animal resources sector actors especially for fisheries and pastoralists</li> </ul>	
<b>Some Impacts of COVID-19, and Pandemic Containment Measures on Africa's Animal Resources Sector</b>	
<b>Disruption of Supply Chains</b>	<b>Disruption of Production and Processing</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cessation of regional and international importation of feeds, veterinary inputs, eggs and chicks, and other inputs</li> <li>• Limited access to services</li> <li>• Rise in the costs of imported inputs and raw materials</li> <li>• Rise in expenditure on inputs also due to increased transport costs and supply difficulties up to 20%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disruption of traditional transhumance patterns</li> <li>• High increase in feed deficits especially in pastoralist areas already affected by drought and or floods and locusts</li> <li>• Closure of production and processing infrastructure and facilities such as slaughterhouses, landing sites</li> <li>• Production losses reported at 20 – 60% by three MS</li> <li>• Slowdown in activities, leading to increase in overheads, decline in production and loss of jobs</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In other instance a fall in the price of local inputs as demand slows as businesses cannot continue due to lack of access to critical imported inputs</li> <li>• Closure of businesses producing inputs and supplies such as feed mills leading to scarcity</li> </ul> <p><b>Disruption of Finance and investment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-allocation of public funds from animal resources to address the health emergency</li> <li>• Re-allocation of donor funds from animal resources Programs and Projects to COVID-19 activities</li> <li>• Uncertainties, fear and panic lead to decreased private investment in the sector</li> <li>• Drop in tax revenues</li> <li>• Suspension of policy and legislative processes</li> <li>• Reduced foreign exchange earnings</li> </ul> <p><b>Disruption of Markets and Access to Markets</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change in consumption patterns as panic buying focuses on stocking non-perishable foods, and fears and misinformation over zoonotic diseases rise leading to shunning of foods of animal origin</li> <li>• Pastoralists, fisher-folk and other rural livestock keepers unable to access domestic and regional markets</li> <li>• Market closures reducing sale and access to food of animal origin</li> <li>• Closure of hotels, restaurants, cooked food vendors</li> <li>• Cancellation of orders by markets leaving suppliers with excess products</li> <li>• A sharp drop in prices of food of animal origin</li> <li>• Lower prices for livestock affecting livelihoods of primary producers</li> <li>• Decrease in sales of livestock (40% in Niger)</li> <li>• Decrease in sales of butcheries (60% in Niger)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High impacts on exotic and cross-breeds not adaptive to sudden changes to quality of husbandry and care</li> <li>• Restrictions on movement of workers/ decreased access to labor</li> <li>• High spoilage/wastage and increased mortalities due to increased transportation and handling time</li> </ul> <p><i>Some specific to fisheries</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ban on landing equipment from other EEZs</li> <li>• Postponement of fishing calendar</li> <li>• High infections on fishing vessels and landing sites</li> <li>• Challenges in effecting crew replacement</li> </ul> <p><b>Disruption of Delivery and Access to Animal Health Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inability to conduct/ suspension of surveillance and reporting of diseases</li> <li>• A rise in livestock diseases</li> <li>• A rise in unreported/ unverified disease outbreaks</li> <li>• Disruption of vaccination and mass treatment campaigns</li> <li>• Inability to respond to emergencies</li> <li>• Regulatory services reduced/ suspended including inspection of slaughterhouses, reduced deployment of observers on fishing vessels leading to illegal and unreported fishing</li> <li>• Fewer clients utilize vet pharmacies leading to reduction in turnover in veterinary pharmacies</li> </ul>
<p><b>Vulnerabilities Highlighted</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High impact on the most vulnerable populations including pastoralists, fisher-folk, urban and rural poor</li> <li>• Widespread hunger and malnourishment</li> <li>• Increase in food insecurity especially among pastoralist and fisher-folk household, and urban and rural poor</li> <li>• Loss of incomes and livelihoods</li> <li>• Migration of youth from rural to urban areas in search for jobs/ employment</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Factors Contributing to the Magnitude of the Impact Include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The containment measures put in place, including whether or not the animal resources sector was designated as essential services</li> <li>• The level of consultation and engagement of the private sector and other actors at all stages on how to address the effect of the pandemic on the productive sectors</li> <li>• The strategy used to support the sector to cushion the sector or ensure continuity of the sector</li> <li>• The quality of investment in the sector/value chains prior to the pandemic: the marginalized segments and populations are the most vulnerable</li> </ul>	

- How reliant a value chain is on regional and international supply chains, food chains, market and trade links
- The existence of other stresses/emergencies other than COVID-19 such as floods, droughts, locusts that exacerbate the impact of the pandemic

Emergency and Short Term Response	Mitigation Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognition that the animal resources sector provides essential services</li> <li>• Set up of Committees to protect food and nutrition security</li> <li>• Emergency vaccinations and collective treatment campaigns to protect animals and prevent outbreaks</li> <li>• Engagement of the private sector and producers</li> <li>• Review of Sector Work Plans and Budgets to support emergency and recovery</li> <li>• Sensitization of animal resources sector actors</li> <li>• Assessment of the impacts</li> <li>• Strengthen existing development programs towards sustainable livelihoods and crisis mitigation</li> <li>• Promotion of the production and availability of foods of animal origin in a diversified and safe manner</li> <li>• Improvement of hygienic conditions at processing, handling and marketing facilities</li> <li>• Social protection of vulnerable populations through cash transfers or in kind support</li> <li>• Financial packages to support supply chain actors especially feed mills</li> <li>• Availing water sources</li> <li>• Institutional support and technical backstopping to enable MS prepare, implement response plans and mitigation measures and monitor their efficacy</li> <li>• Protocols for telemedicine to aid access to veterinary and extension services</li> <li>• Financial packages including loan deferment, credit to support business continuity</li> <li>• Tax waivers and tax relief</li> <li>• Resource mobilization</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of a one health approach</li> <li>• Strengthen epidemiological surveillance network and veterinary laboratory infrastructure and capacities</li> <li>• Mainstreaming animal resources in economic stimulus packages</li> <li>• Leverage among MS increased for intra and inter-regional investment and cooperation to address supply and food chain gaps</li> <li>• Support trade corridors to ease access to markets</li> <li>• Enhanced access to data and information</li> <li>• Support MS to adopt long term strategies including CAADP/NAIPs; LiDeSA, AHSA, AWSA, PFFA</li> <li>• Build systemic capacity to delivery public and private technical livestock services</li> <li>• Incentives to support youth agri-businesses development along the animal resources value chains</li> <li>• Campaign to build awareness and capacities on zoonosis, food safety and hygiene</li> <li>• Harmonization and facilitation of cross-border and regional supply and food chains and trade corridors</li> <li>• Increased investment to ensure the proper functioning of the animal resources value chains</li> </ul>

## **CENTRAL AFRICA**

### *3.2.1 Cameroon*

Cameroon has not been spared from the impacts of COVID-19. Restrictions on the movement of people and distancing measures are hampering functionality of the animal resources sector, and have especially disrupted the entire supply chain for production of food of animal and fish origin affecting the availability of meat, which will compromise nutrition security. With the rapid evolution of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and in view of the serious threats it poses to the national economy and businesses, including those in the livestock sector in particular, the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries through its Directorate for the Development of Animal Production

and Industries (DDPIA) undertook the assessment of the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on the poultry and beef-meat sectors, key results of which are summarized in Boxes 4 and 5.

**Box 4: Impacts of COVID-19 Containment Measures on Cameroon's Poultry Sector from the Directorate for Animal Production and Industries Assessment**

Cameroon's poultry sector accounts for 62% of all the meat produced in the country (excluding rabbit and other non-conventional meats); producing 100% of the domestic table eggs, and 49% of the table eggs consumed in the Central Africa region.

A survey carried out among the ten hatcheries in the Central, Littoral and West Regions that produce 90% of the chicks in Cameroon, for the period from January to the end of March 2020 revealed that the hatchery stocking rate stood at 52.4% out of a total production capacity of 3,016,400 per month. The survey also indicated that there was increase in imports of hatching eggs and day-old chicks for breeding between the first quarter of 2019 and the first quarter of 2020, justified by the need to make up for the low hatching capacity due to the ageing of parent stock. Imports mainly concern eggs for hatching, day-old chicks and future day-old chicks for breeding. A net cessation of these imports was observed as soon as the restrictive measures were announced on 18 March 2020, which has consequently led to the depopulation of especially poultry farms for broiler production. Other negative impacts that have been observed, and attributed directly to the imposition of the COVID-19 containment measures were:

- A sharp increase in the poultry diseases during the period following the announcement of the first cases of COVID-19 and institution of measures to combat the disease, leading to the loss of 43% of chickens, i.e., 679,590 chickens translating to a decrease in chicken meat of 50 tons for the last two weeks of March.
- A slump in the demand and sale of one day old chicks, which caused a significant drop in prices and cash flow problems for producers. For example, the price of broiler chicks fell from 500 to 350 going as low as 300 FCFA; and the price of a large tray of table eggs dropping from 2200 to 1900 FCFA. Two main factors explain this slump in prices: consumer fears of the zoonotic origins of COVID-19 incriminating animal source foods; and the panic buying which saw households focus on stocking of non-perishable foods and sanitary goods as soon as the measures were announced.
- Closure of regional borders which led to a rise in raw materials for feed manufacture (e.g. maize from 175 to 200 frs/kg; groundnut cake from 175 to 240 frs/kg and soya cake from 275 to 325 frs/kg) affecting costs of poultry production.

This led to farmers reducing orders for day old chicks: for example one hatchery EPA Sarl had 56 out of 126 orders cancelled. Two out of the ten hatcheries suspended business, and sent their staff on technical leave.

Results indicate that the COVID-19 containment measures have affected the animal resources sector producers and other value chain actors. On the other hand, demand has declined due to uncertainty and caution leading to reduced consumer spending. Some of the immediate effects of restrictions and containment measures include market disruptions reducing access to food of animal and fish origin, limited access to animal feed and other inputs and services, a slowdown of the activities of processors and marketing outlets such as slaughterhouses, landing stages and fish outlets. The impacts have ramifications on the food and nutrition security and livelihoods of particularly vulnerable rural populations.

To mitigate the effects of the pandemic on the animal resources sector, Cameroon called for: (i) a recognition that animal sector activities and associated logistics services should be considered essential; (ii) Increasing efforts are needed to ensure the proper functioning of livestock and fisheries value chains and to promote the production and availability of foods of animal origin in a diversified and safe manner for all; (iii) a unified one health approach that recognizes the links between human, animal and environmental health, and invests across all three areas; (iv) emergency social protection measures to secure food and nutrition safety of most vulnerable populations; (iv) strengthen existing development programs and work towards sustainable livelihoods and crisis mitigation; (v) and supporting the capacities of small producers to increase their production. Cameroon further appealed to donor partner countries to continue, and even more than in the past, provide assistance as the COVID-19 pandemic and its ramifications know no borders.

***Box 5: Some Early Impacts of COVID-19 Containment Measures on Cameroon's Beef, Fisheries and Aquaculture Value Chains and on the Provision of Veterinary Services from the Directorate for Animal Production and Industries Assessment***

**Some Early Impacts on Cameroon's Beef Value Chain**

The beef and veal sector generate 22% of the meat consumed in Cameroon. After an increase in demand for meat in the first quarter, and particularly in the first few weeks of the coronavirus crisis in Asia, Europe and America, the situation changed after the institution of COVID-19 measures in Cameroon. There was a dramatic drop in demand from hotels and restaurants and the cancellation of supplies from rotisseries and grocery stores following the restrictive measures.

**Some Early Impacts on Cameroon's Fisheries and Aquaculture Value Chains**

The fisheries and aquaculture sector has been seriously impacted by the COVID-19 measures taken to curb the spread of the disease. Movement restrictions and social distancing regulations have greatly disrupted the entire fishing industry in terms of capture/production activities, product distribution and market supply. Some of the containment impacts noted are:

- A drastic drop in the production of fishery products as a result of the reduction or even cessation of fishing activity by both artisanal fishermen and industrial fishing vessels. Out of

50 industrial fishing vessels operating in the country, nearly 65% have stopped fishing since 30 March 2020, due to the COVID-19 measures. This constitutes a considerable loss of income for fishing companies. The situation is similar with artisanal fisheries where fishermen reduced fishing. Compared to the period April-May 2019, the decline in fish production is estimated at 20%. Studies on the evaluation of the impact of COVID-19 on the fisheries sector are ongoing.

- A slowdown in aquaculture activities: There has been a reduction in the installation of new fry strips on farms. Hatcheries (fry producers) are unable to sell all their production to table fish producers.
- The impact is also being felt by other players in the value chain, particularly among fish feed vendors.
- A decrease in the marketing of fresh products and a decrease in the import of frozen products.
- There has been a drop in demand for fresh and frozen products due in particular to the closure of restaurants, bars and other cooked fish outlets. In the same way the purchases of fresh and frozen products from fish shops and other fish wholesalers has slowed considerably. Similarly a reduction in the collection of products from fisheries in inland water bodies increasing post-harvest losses.
- Across the board employment and livelihoods of actors in the fisheries and aquaculture value chains have been eroded or lost
- In general, the slowdown in fishing and aquaculture activity has resulted in the technical leave of fishermen and several employees in the value chain and even the loss of jobs.
- The impacts are reflected in the drop in tax revenue collected by the State in the form of production tax and product health and veterinary inspection tax.

### **Early Impacts on Cameroon's Veterinary Pharmacies and Services**

The impact of the Covid-19 crisis on veterinary care facilities is generating concerns about the stability of business revenues and sustainability as turnover drops.

#### *3.2.2 Central Africa Republic*

There are observations that fishermen have been restricted from fishing and animal resources consumption in general has been affected. However data and information on the impacts of COVID-19 on animal resources is lacking. Research on COVID-19 as well as other important animal diseases is inadequate and human resources for the same is lacking. As a result, the government is planning to build capacities of veterinary laboratories to be able to do related research. There is need for the animal resources sector to collaborate with other sectors in response to covid19

#### *3.2.3 Democratic Republic of Congo*

The Covid-19 Pandemic in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is not without harmful consequences for the animal resources sector. Livestock farmers, especially those in the pastoral zones to the east of the country, are no longer able to market their products easily due to restrictions

on movement, and as entrepreneurs are facing serious financial challenges. With travel restrictions, veterinary officers are no longer providing adequate support to livestock farmers. There is difficulty accessing veterinary inputs as importation is restricted. Thus livestock are exposed to all kinds of diseases due to lack of preventive and/or curative care. Vaccinations campaigns and other preventive treatments are suspended. The certain consequence is the occurrence of diseases in the near future. The slowing down or even cessation of the operation of feed mills due to the restriction of workers' movements is leading to a scarcity of animal feed, pushing up the prices of livestock products such as eggs and meat. These impacts has particularly affected improved and exotic breeds that are more sensitive to sudden change in quality of husbandry practices and care. At a public institutional level, some initiatives such as the drafting of the Law on Livestock in DRC and the implementation of the National Livestock Policy which were underway, particularly with the support of strategic partners has been suspended indefinitely, with no indication that the process will continue after the pandemic.

To mitigate these impacts, DRC proposes: (i) Social protection measures through financial transfers or in-kind support to producers whose access to markets has been curtailed, impacting on their businesses and sources of livelihood; (ii) Emergency vaccinations and collective treatment campaigns against key livestock diseases to protect animals and prevent outbreaks; (iii) Financial packages to support feed mills to meet the feed requirements of livestock; (iv) Investment in facilities for animal breed development, improvement, multiplication and dissemination to boost livestock farming; and (v) Institutional support and technical backstopping to Member States to enable those legal, regulatory frameworks and strategies to respond to the impacts of COVID-19 on their animal resources sectors.

#### 3.2.4 *Gabon*

Challenges to the animal resources sector in Gabon have arisen from both lock downs and other restrictions of movements both within the country and beyond in the region and globally. Key markets in neighbouring Cameroon and Chad have not been accessible. In country, key stakeholders along the animal resources value chains including producers and processor have thus been affected adversely.

### **EAST AFRICA**

#### 3.2.5 *Kenya*

Challenges presented by covid-19 Immediate challenges include restricted movement that have made it difficult for workers in the livestock sector to undertake their activities; livestock market closures, and challenges for fresh produce suppliers to access markets. Provision of veterinary, extension, input and other services have been greatly constrained. The impact of COVID-19 containment measures have been exacerbated by widespread floods in some parts of the country. Of significant note is the fact that demand for animal products is tied to food safety and hygiene issues that inherent to the handling of animals and perishable goods. Traditional livestock farming may not be sustainable anymore. As a result, the country sees the livestock sector being greatly disadvantaged in terms of opportunities post COVID-19.

Actions taken include allowing movement of essential services to the animal resources sector such as movement of produce to markets. A Committee on Food Security has been set up. In addition Kenya is putting in place an integrated multi-sectoral COVID-19 Response Team led by the Cabinet Secretary of health. The Country is also developing a plan for long term interventions. Funds have been provided for an Economic Stimulus package. For the animal resources sector support in form of provision of inputs such as day old chicks, restocking, feedlots, availing water sources (de-silting water banks and dams, rehabilitation of boreholes), strengthening laboratory infrastructure and focusing .on key areas and subsectors.

Kenya underscored that the situation presents an unprecedented opportunity to draw on the gaps the pandemic has exposed, and lessons learned to re-think, re-engineer and re-position for a more robust and functional animal resources sector. Priority areas could include consideration of tax relief on animal feeds; improved infrastructure; and promotion of subsidized payments (e.g. insurance); strengthening market information systems; and embracing the devolved system of governance for more substantive local government investments to build on comparative advantages.

## **NORTH AFRICA**

### *3.2.6 Egypt*

Egypt has been one of the hardest hit countries on the continent by COVID-19 in terms of number of infected and loss of human life. Like for many other African countries, development in Egypt is directly linked to agriculture and animal resources therefore negative impacts of the COVID-19 containment measures on the two sectors is affecting food security adversely. Interventions in the country include investments to improve food supply chains; and to ease the economic pressures, the Central Bank of Egypt has and deferred loan repayments for the next six months and offered more loans to citizens.

Egypt appealed for coordinated action among African Member States towards more substantive investments in the animal resources sector: (i) Egypt proposed an assessment of countries where animal resources is a priority sector, and a mapping of those countries that desire to increase animal sector investments. This will provide a basis to leverage cooperation among countries to address COVID-19 impacts. (ii) Create a platform to meet the food gap through development of a food chain (iii) Support trade corridors that will ease access to supplies and inputs and to markets

### *3.2.7 Morocco*

Sanitary measures taken in the country in response to the pandemic included restriction of movements. Closure of borders have however affected international movement of persons and goods. The government has released funds to support all affected sectors. For the livestock sector, the government put in place measures to ensure efficient marketing of animal resources just to ensure a continued steady supply of animal resourced products met the demand of citizens. Government support has assured no disruption of market supply even though there was low rain.

Morocco advocated for regional fora of Member States for coordinated action towards addressing challenges of agricultural supply and food chains/ food insecurity where Member States with surplus can supply through intra and inter-regional trade.

### 3.2.8 *Mauritania*

Faced with the spread of the pandemic, the State instituted a number of measures: confinement of the different regions of the country, ban on landing equipment from outside the Mauritanian exclusive economic zone (EEZ); a postponement of the start of the biological closure of artisanal fishing on bottom-dwelling demersal species to get around the difficulty of seeing the entire workforce (several thousand fishermen) blocked at the port cities because of the confinement imposed. A critical impact of the closure of markets for Mauritanian fishery products has led to a drastic drop in the number of regattas, making it difficult for many operators to pay their employees properly, both at sea (fishing marina) and on land.

To address the impacts of COVID-19 on the sector, the State has waived the payment of certain taxes and fees for a few months to relieve the impacted actors, and has in addition set up of a fund-raising mechanism to guarantee an advance to the operators, according to the quantity of their product in stock, to be able to advance them a buffer before the actual sale. The State has organized a major awareness campaign in collaboration with stakeholders on the Covid-19 pandemic.

### 3.2.9 *Tunisia*

The agricultural sector was given priority as critical to ensuring food security and for its contribution to the national economy. Therefore the agricultural sector in Tunisia remains the only sector that has generally not been affected adversely by COVID-19 containment measures. The actors of the agricultural sector have therefore continued to work normally from producers, to distributors and marketing of products. The exception is the fishing industry, where there is a break following the containment and stoppage of production by the State for a few weeks before fishing can be resumed. Among the containment and safety measures instituted are authorization for suppliers in the sector to provide farmers with the necessary inputs; data and information to support the different sectors with particular attention to regulation.

The entire value chain of the dairy industry from production, collection, processing and distribution plant dairy industry, for example, is not affected or only slightly affected by the Covid-19 containment measures. The State has intervened through its implementing Office of Livestock and Pastures by paying milk subsidies to ensure continued normal functioning and sustainability of milk collection centers. Nevertheless there are challenges such as disruptions to food supply as imports of raw materials for industries have been depressed by international restrictions to movement; and price increases where inflation of prices of animal products at market level, especially the price of red meat has been observed. Other the government measures include monitoring performance of bank credits; and plans to reconfigure the national cow herd with a grant for the acquisition of 5000 purebred heifer calves each year.

## **SOUTHERN AFRICA**

### *3.2.10 Madagascar*

Actions taken to contain the COVID-19 virus include restrictions of people movements, which has led to disruption of both domestic and import supply chains key to the livestock sector value chains. This has resulted in reduced food supplies. Other negative impacts include reduced resilience in the sector; vulnerability of farmers and rural populations and migration of youth from rural areas to urban areas as cash flows dwindle especially in the rural areas, thereby reducing critical labor for animal resources sector production activities. The situation, which highlights inadequacies in youth deployment policies, presents an opportunity for putting in place mechanisms to attract youth back to the rural areas and harness their energies in production, processing and marketing.

The government has put in place an emergency plan to mitigate the above through (i) Reinforcing the resilience of the sector and ensuring the availability of food; (ii) Allowing the movement of food despite the lockdown (iii) Supporting the vulnerable; and (iv) Providing Incentivizes for the youth to stay in rural areas to support production activities.

### *3.2.11 Seychelles*

Capture fisheries in Seychelles have developed substantially over the last 20 years, particularly industrial fisheries, and the sector is now of paramount importance to the country. In Seychelles COVID-19 has had significant impacts on the fisheries and aquaculture sector. A national committee is managing the pandemic. A summary of the findings of an Assessment of the first three months of 2020, undertaken by the Fisheries and Agricultural Ministerial Department are summarized in Box 6.

#### **Box 6: Ministerial Assessment of the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Artisanal and Industrial Fishing, and Aquaculture in Seychelles**

The assessment, which covered the first three months of 2020, revealed negative impacts of COVID-19 containment measures on the sector as follows:

- Artisanal fishing: thirty percent (30%) reduction
- Aquaculture: thirty percent (30%) reduction
- Industrial fishing: eighty percent (80%) reduction
- There are almost 100 seamen on board fishing vessels engaged in tuna fisheries in the Indian Ocean (Seychelles). With the closure of borders and institution of health measures, the replacement of seamen on board fishing vessels remains a major challenge for ship owners. Several seamen have far exceeded their legal working time on board fishing vessels. The government of Madagascar is working with shipping lines to ensure their relief.

To maintain continuity of the production sector, government has taken action to raise awareness of barrier measures; reduce financial costs; and facilitate issuing of permits for the transportation of animals, goods and persons. Specific measures have also been taken to help all sectors to start up

after COVID-19: for small-scale fishing and aquaculture the government has developed a Project worth One billion, two million CFA francs (1,200,000,000) or nearly 1,840,000 Euros. Discussions are under way with the technical and financial partners to mobilize the funding. The specific measure for national industrial fisheries is being prepared.

### 3.2.12 South Africa

Actions taken to respond to the pandemic included declaration of the animal resources sector including veterinary services as essential services during lockdown. This was based on the Disaster Management Act 2002. This has prioritized continuous care for animals to prevent neglect of animals and the consequential rise in animal diseases; continuity of production, breeding and exportation activities; and economic support package to ensure that food production continues. This has also enabled statutory institutions and agencies and agriculture sector actors to continue to work together to reduce the impact of the COVID-19 containment measures. No impact assessment of COVID-19 has been undertaken in South Africa but the government has established various committees to identify intervention areas. A quantitative analysis on the impact of COVID-19 is yet to be conducted.

## **WEST AFRICA**

### 3.2.13 Cabo Verde

Cape Verde is experiencing its third consecutive year of drought causing severe pasture shortages and high livestock mortality. In response to this situation, the Government put in place a set of measures to mitigate the effects of the drought, including the subsidization of 20 to 40 percent of the purchase of concentrated feed and pasture depending on the degree of allocation per island/municipality, as well as the mobilization of water for livestock consumption.

The situation above was aggravated by the entry into a state of emergency following the COVID-19 which forced the Government to take more severe quarantine containment measures including restricted movement of the entire population, the closure of bars, entertainment places, schools, shopping centers and informal commerce, sports venues and restaurants, which were only allowed home delivery. Services such as community health centers and mini-markets banks, hospitals and certain administrative services were declared essential services.

The measures adopted to mitigate the impact of the pandemic were social protection especially for the elderly; teleworking arrangements for civil servants to work from home; distribution of basic foodstuffs to poor families; adoption of distance learning for students; establishment of response for first aid and medical care; and aid to support companies in distress following closure of their activities to cover part of workers' salaries not covered by insurance.

More specific to the agricultural sector the priority measures were: Consultation with economic operators before the state of emergency came into force that made it possible to take stock of

raw materials for the manufacture of concentrated foodstuffs and to ensure food production. This revealed that the Country had a safety stock that could cover a period of three months and ensure that the conditions for continued food production were created. During the quarantine period, food imports have followed a normal rate of supply; and public health services such as inspection at slaughterhouse level and veterinary services have continued unimpeded.

In addition, as a result of other emergency measures taken by the Government, such as those related to the reduction of working hours, some food-producing companies had to introduce a plan for the internal rescheduling of their workers' hours in order to avoid transmission of the virus and to avoid disruption of production. This has warranted changes in manufacturing and distribution procedures. For example manufacturers have had to deliver feeds to farmers, and while this has not had an immediate impact on feed production costs, it has passed transportation costs to farmers to maintain production cost stability. It is however expected that the increases in the price of raw materials on the international market as well as absence of certain products will undoubtedly lead to an increase in the price of concentrated feed in the post-COVID-19 period, with concomitant effects on the purchasing power of livestock farmers that will translate into food security issues. Considering that in the future other emerging and re-emerging diseases could occur, there is an urgent need to strengthen the epidemiological surveillance network and to equip the veterinary laboratory with diagnostic capacity in order to respond to the demands and complexity of global public health.

#### *3.2.14 Ghana*

Fisheries sector: Restrictions on mass movement, closure of borders, adoption of flexible working hours in compliance with social distancing, etc. enforced by the Government of Ghana were some of the measures to contain the impact of the virus. As a result, uncertainties, fear and panic negatively impacted fish production decisions, which led to reduced investment in fisheries and aquaculture, inflation in fish and fishery products and loss of some livelihood opportunities. The lockdown constrained movement, leading to reduction in fishing activities. The restrictions made it difficult to deploy observers on board fishing vessels owing to concerns about health, safety and exposure to the COVID-19. This could potentially increase IUU fishing. Trade restrictions and sharp decline in the availability of cargo transportation led to increased volumes of unshipped fish and fishery products from Ghana. Processing companies had to effect partial closure or shut down, due to the need to protect staff/ workers, increase in overhead costs and decline in investment, leading to decline in production levels, which by extension affect the country's foreign exchange earnings from the sector.

The country has put in place several measures to combat negative impacts of the COVID-19 such as: (i) private sector engagement and partnerships; (ii) intensified sensitization of fisher-folk and fishing communities on the COVID-19 pandemic; (iii) provision of sanitary items to fishing communities; livelihood support to fisher-folk; (iv) support for fisher-folk to access fishing inputs; (v) incentive package for frontline fisheries workers; (vi) improvement of hygienic conditions at fish market centers; (vii) and substantive revision of the 2020 Fisheries Sector Work Plan and Budget to address the impacts of COVID-19 on the sector.

### 3.2.15 Niger

In Niger, the first case was detected on 19 March 2020. This pandemic is being approached through movement restrictive measures to curb infections and health management of positive cases. Within this framework, the Government of Niger under the leadership of the Prime Minister rapidly, as early as February 2020, set up an “Inter- Ministerial Committee for the Management of the Response to the COVID-19 pandemic”. The Committee commissioned a Study on the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Food and Nutrition Security, whose results are summarized in Box 7.

**Box 7: Summary of the Results of the Niger Study on the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Food and Nutrition Security Commissioned by the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Management of the Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic**

- An estimated decrease in the sales rates of animals and derived products by 40% and up to 60% for butcheries in Niamey;
- A 20% increase in expenditure on inputs due to transport costs and supply difficulties;
- Impact on households whose income is mainly derived from the sale of animals and animal products: it was estimated that overall 4.2 million (out of 24.1 m) 17.42% of the population would be potentially impacted during the period April-May 2020 and almost a third of the population (28.21%) for the period June-August 2020 i.e., 5.6 million in rural areas and 1.2 million in urban areas. The food insecure populations are distributed as follows:
  - At the regional level: Tillabéri: 634 000 people; Tahoua: 444 000 people; Maradi: 418 000 people; Zinder: 395 000 people.
  - Urban centres: Niamey: 100,000 people; Maradi: 37,000 people; Agadez: 35,000 people.

The consequences of this situation of food insecurity are as follows:

- A decrease in the rate of sales at livestock markets;
- Lower livestock prices;
- A worsening of the feed situation for livestock, which was already in deficit for the previous season at 11 million tonnes of dry matter

The Government of Niger has also drawn up a “Comprehensive Plan to Respond to the COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic”. This plan presented at the Round Table of Technical and Financial Partners (TFP) on 25 March 2020 includes two (2) main axes summarized in Box 8.

**Box 8: The Government of Niger Comprehensive Plan to Respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic, highlighting the Planned Investment on to Ensure Resilience of the Agropastoral Sector**

Axis 1: Health response, including prevention, awareness, control and care of affected persons;  
Axis 2: Mitigation of the negative effects on the country’s socio-economic activities.

The total cost of the plan is CFAF 1,253 billion, distributed as follows:

- Health management of the pandemic: CFAF 167.3 billion;
- Resilience of the education sector: CFAF 20.6 billion;
- Support plan for vulnerable persons: CFAF 300.3 billion;
- Mitigation of socio-economic and financial impacts: CFAF 434 billion;
- Resilience of agro-pastoral producers: CFAF 330.8 billion.

In the agro-pastoral sector, the financing needs of the three (3) priority areas selected are:

- Water control for irrigation: CFA 168.2 billion;
- Restoration of the environment: CFAF 93.7 billion;
- Integrated services at the farmer's home: CFAF 68.9 billion.

In view of the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on the pastoral situation Niger recommends:

- (i) In the immediate/ short term - assist countries in the implementation of pandemic response plans
- (ii) In the longer term help Member States meet the commitment made by African Heads of State in Malabo to allocate 10% of the national budget to agriculture;
- (iii) Undertake advocacy with African Union (AU) Member States for their alignment with LIDESIA and CAADP;
- (ii) Strengthen the delivery of public and private technical livestock services;
- (iii) Support NGOs and Development Associations working in the field of Livestock with information on and sensitization on COVID-19;
- (iv) Encourage development projects to redirect their funding towards short cycle intensified production (such as poultry) ;and for processing (milk, meat) in order to mitigate the risks of food insecurity;
- (v) Support countries in the emergency acquisition of sufficient livestock feed.

### 3.2.16 Nigeria

Nigeria is endowed with a large human population which is currently estimated at about 200 million people. The country is also equally endowed with a large animal population, from which a great number of the people derive their livelihoods. The advent of COVID-19 has greatly affected the country in many ways and the number of people affected is growing by the day. In response, Nigeria, along with other countries of the world has adopted far reaching containment measures which border mostly on lockdown and social distancing with attendant restriction of movement of people, goods and services; testing, contact tracing and case management in isolation and quarantine centers. With the restriction in movement, the animal resources sector has been greatly impacted negatively and the actors along the various animal resources value chain are bearing the brunt of the lockdown of the economy.

Some of these impacts include: (i) Dislocations along the various animal resources value chains with attendant public health and socioeconomic impacts such as job cuts, loss of livelihoods diminishing household income and food insecurity, widespread hunger and malnourishment. These come in form of: Disruption in the movement of food items including livestock and livestock products, poultry and fishes (both artisanal and aqua culture) leading to delays in transit and increased mortalities; and disruption in the production processes due to restriction in the movement of goods and services

such as agricultural production inputs, day-old-chicks, fingerlings, etc. (ii) Scarcity and high cost of production inputs including feeds, drugs, biologicals and veterinary services. (iii) Inability to access markets leading to post harvest losses such as trade animals, eggs, day-old chicks, mature broilers and fish resulting in glut in some areas and scarcity in others. (iv) Inability of the Veterinary services to respond to animal health and disease emergences in the face of movement restrictions due to shortages in logistics and animal health commodities as being experienced with the outbreak of African Swine fever (ASF) in pigs and yet to be confirmed case of mass fish deaths in the coastal waters of the country. (iv) Disruption of traditional transhumance patterns, an essential part of the production system in the country, may lead to tensions and even violent conflicts between resident and pastoralist communities, resulting in local displacement and increased levels of poverty and food insecurity. (v) In the face of the above there is still increasing community transmission with impact on public health and the economy at large.

In order to cushion the impacts as enumerated above, the government has: (i) Designated Agricultural activities among the essential services to enable some level of free movement; Established a Joint Technical Task Force (JTTF) to facilitate the free movement of food items and agricultural production inputs across the nation; (ii) The government has also released palliative measures in terms of direct supply of food items to vulnerable groups and aims to support farmers with inputs for the 2020 farming season; Special credit facilities are being extended to small and medium scale enterprises through the Central Bank of Nigeria; (ii) The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) has commenced aerial spraying for the control of transboundary pests especially against locust, quelea birds and army worms to prevent further devastation of cultivated fields; and the Department of Veterinary and Pest Control Services (DVPCS) has commenced decontamination of livestock production facilities and markets along with sensitization of livestock farmers and marketers of animal resources.

There are some outstanding challenges: (i) The animal resources sector is receiving some attention under the overall response to current COVID-19 Pandemic but more needs to be done to accord the sector the priority attention it deserves; (ii) Lack of financial resources and relevant commodities for a robust biosecurity enforcement program in the livestock markets and production/processing facilities; Inadequate resources for effective sensitization and awareness creation among the various actors in the animal resources value chain; (iii) Need to strengthen research, disease surveillance and response activities of the country's veterinary services in respect of COVID-19 and other public health emergencies in livestock, fisheries, companion animals and wildlife; Support to animal health service providers, livestock and fisheries producers to cushion the impact of the lockdown on their activities in order to prevent job losses; and Need for a continental declaration of the control of animal and zoonotic diseases as a 'public good' and impress on member states the necessity to make adequate budgetary provision in support of the animal resources sector.

### 3.2.17 Senegal

Covid-19 has impacted animal resources value chains in terms of reduced supplies of raw materials and other services. Aquaculture and fisheries are also impacted negatively.

## 4 INTERVENTIONS FROM CONTINENTAL ANIMAL RESOURCES PLATFORMS AND ASSOCIATIONS

Continental Platforms, including the African Association for Veterinary Statutory Bodies (2A-VSB), women, youth, apiculture and fisheries representative associations provided strong insights on the adverse effects COVID-19 has had on practical aspects of the sector, and on the emerging opportunities for innovation and harnessing ICTs as sector actors responded.

### 4.1 *African Apiculture Platform (AAP)*

The African Apiculture Platform lamented the fact that none of the RECs of MSs had mentioned the impacts on Africa's apiculture (beekeeping) sector, yet this largely rural based sector offers great and yet untapped potential for food and nutrition security, health and well-being, and for gainful employment of women and youth. Pollination services, that are a critical input to the crop, fruit and vegetable industries, contribute an estimated \$2 billion to the USA GDP annually, are not yet harnessed in most of Africa. Hive products especially honey contribute to livelihoods and incomes, with growing prospects as health and well-being take a center stage globally with the COVID-19 pandemic and the exponential growth of lifestyle diseases.

Restriction of movement has affected beekeepers who cannot access their hives to undertake beekeeping activities including inspection and management of hives, and harvesting of hive products. Likewise other actors in processing and handling, value addition, packaging and distribution and marketing have been affected. A number of actors export to global markets and their businesses have been greatly impacted.

The AAP called for recognition of the role of the apiculture in food and nutrition security, livelihoods and income. The current crisis underscores the need to elevate the status of apiculture to harness its role of pollination services, giving it concomitant investment to water, quality seed, fertilizer and pesticides. The sector should be mainstreamed for purposes of inclusion in stimulus packages. The sector can provide jobs especially for entrepreneurial youth and women.

### 4.2 *African Women in Animal Resources Farming and Agribusiness (AWARFA-N)*

AWARFA-N underscored the importance of the animal resources sector in providing women income generating activities in production, processing and marketing. These activities are dependent on access to supply and distribution chains and to markets. For example in West Africa women's involvement with marketing of animal products, hides and skins, and small ruminants is linked to pastoralist systems, which if disrupted have direct effect on women. AWARFA-N emphasized the importance of continuation of activities to support women, including under its framework and the AU-IBAR Live2Africa Project support to priority regional livestock value chains. AWARFA-N advocated for additional financing packages to support women businesses and marketing and trade activities in the animal resources sector.

### **4.3 African Youth in Livestock, Fisheries and Aquaculture Incubators Network (AYL-FAIN)**

AYL-FAIN appreciated the inclusion of youth in the consultative process, noting that given Africa's youthful population, and youth energy they should be part of planning and of addressing COVID-19 impacts. AYL-FAIN emphasized the need to attract and support young people at all levels to engage in the animal resources sector as a business and involve them at the forefront of post COVID-19 mitigation measures to provide technologies and innovations to create new approaches and adaptations to doing business toward recovery and building resilience. The following should be done in support of youth: (i) Harmonize policies to engage young people in animal production; (ii) Establish strategic actions that engage the youth in input and service delivery (extension services delivery, animal feed making domains, artificial insemination and breeding businesses, research, equipment making business as well as delivering animal health services) and outputs markets (production and productivity, live animal markets and processed animal products markets, packaging and logistics markets); (iii) Promote E-commerce as a means of reducing the impact of COVID-19 on trade and marketing of animal commodities.

### **4.4 Confederation Africaine des Organizations de Peche Artisanale (CAOPA)**

CAOPA outlined the challenges and suffering that producers and their households have undergone since measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 were put in place. Access to key fishing, processing and market facilities including airports for export, were severely curtailed. Fisher-folk have found themselves in a very difficult situation and households are suffering. CAOPA had consulted with its Members and has exchanged views on possible mitigation measures with the African Union.

### **4.5 Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO)**

All four Member States of the LVFO have put in place restrictions to contain the spread of COVID-19, affecting fisheries value chains at different levels especially on processing, marketing and consumption. LVFO is collecting detailed information and the interventions LVFO is implementing will be discussed in the upcoming Sectorial Council. The presenter noted that Women processors work with their children but no safety measures have been put in to protect children from COVID-19. Private sector actors are embracing online marketing and should be empowered to train on and utilize this new approach. The organization is in the process of gathering relevant information of the current status of issues and action is being taken to use the information to plan and put in place necessary interventions.

### **4.6 African Association of Veterinary Statutory Bodies (2-AVSB)**

COVID-19 human quarantine measures have impeded provision of animal health, production & regulatory services as well as activities of the 2AVSB Association. The COVID-19 pandemic serves to underscore the fact that whatever affects human health affects animal health and vice versa. The clients of veterinary services have been adversely affected and veterinary telemedicine guidelines should be adopted. Across Africa, internet services should be made available and affordable to all service providers along the value chain. The impact of the pandemic on the various levels of service providers should constitute part of the assessments.

The following was emphasized: (i) Member State should recognize the importance of the links between animal-human and environmental health during such epidemics in future and implement a one health approach. (ii) Need to assess impact of Covid-19 on the regulatory function in the animal sector and how such impacts could be mitigated to inform future similar situations, drawing lessons from experiences from all member states (iii) Need to assess economic and social impacts on the regulatory authorities in the animal sector as well as the various level (animal/veterinary) sector service providers – many may need stimulus for their businesses; (iv) Due to effects on Vet-Client-Patient- Relationship – there is need to address veterinary telemedicine guidelines and regulation including harmonizing across Africa regions. This requires a means for quick and reliable identification of legitimate veterinary service providers. This will also be essential as the implementation of the AfCFTA rolls out in July 2020 this year; (v) There is need for reliable & affordable Internet at all levels – [a new reality of how businesses will be conducted] (vi) There is need to assess available infrastructure and supply chain gaps in the animal sector value chains and strategies for how these gaps can be filled developed e.g., access to liquid nitrogen for artificial insemination, vaccines and biologicals (vii) There is need for provision of food and services to wild animals in captivity.

## 5 STATEMENTS BY STRATEGIC PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

AUC/AU-IBAR Partners, the African Development Bank (AfDB), the European Union (EU) and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB,) shared the focal areas of their stimulus packages to support African countries address COVID-19 impacts; and outlined how MS, RECs and animal resources sector actors can access the packages.

### 5.1 African Development Bank

Dr. Youssouf Kabore, Charge en Chef Elevage, AfDB revealed that under the COVID-19 Rapid Response Facility (CRF) the Bank has set aside 7.4 Billion African Development Banks Units of Account<sup>5</sup> (UA) to fund Regional Member Countries (RMCs) urgent financing requirements to support interventions that minimize the health, social and economic impacts of the pandemic. The Response interventions for the pandemic have prioritize medical and public health measures, but RMCs are quickly recognizing the impact on hunger and malnutrition as food production and distribution systems are severely compromised. The AfDB's Feed Africa team are developing a specialized Africa Food Crises Response (AFRC) framework with the aim to (i) Build resilience, sustainability and self-sufficiency in the production and distribution of staple and nutritious foods and minimize COVID-19 related disruptions to the agricultural value chain, (ii) Support African governments, farmers and corporates and SMEs serving the agricultural sector respond to and mitigate the impacts of the pandemic on food systems

Livestock play a significant role in rural livelihoods and the economies of developing countries. It is for this reason that the AU-IBAR's initiative to measure the impacts of COVID 19 on the livestock sector in order to put in place mitigation measures is welcome. This will enable technical and financial actors, including the AfDB, to better guide their interventions in the livestock sector. The Bank's

<sup>5</sup> On 15th June 2020, 1 African Development Bank Unit of Account (UA) was equivalent to 1.4 United States Dollars

interventions are guided by the priorities defined by the RMCs on the basis of the requests they send to the Bank. It is therefore of importance that national stakeholders to advocate for the livestock sector, whose contribution to the economy and development of countries is underestimated, to be elevated to a priority sector.

## 5.2 European Union

David Mwangi, Project Manager Agriculture, Job Creation and Resilience, Delegation of the European Union to Kenya, reassured of EU support to ensure African countries address the impacts of COVID-19 on the animal resources sector. He revealed that EU is already supporting the AU-IBAR Sustainable Development of Livestock for Livelihoods in Africa Project (Live2Africa Project) which is on-going, and is COVID-19 response activities into its Programming. Because of their vulnerabilities women, youth and pastoralists are target groups for the EU and focused attention on their needs should be a priority consideration as COVID-19 impacts to the animal resources sector are addressed. There is need to bring youth at the centre of innovation and increased resilience, and youth should be involved along the whole animal resources value chains. This should go hand in hand with relevant training. Likewise environmental issues will be a priority. The EU is going to use two approaches in its support: At continental level, EU is going to collaborate with AU-IBAR, AfDB and ADB in response to COVID-19 impacts; and at national level, MSS are supposed to approach national EU Delegations to access support.

## 5.3 Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)

Dr. Baboucarr Jaw, Global Livestock and Fisheries Specialist, Islamic Development Bank, noted that there could be food crises beyond health crises post-COVID-19. There is degradation of the environment due to increase in charcoal burning and hunting activities that have been taken up as alternative livelihoods. Besides, Agricultural extension services have been affected due to re-allocation of national budgets to the health sector. There is therefore need to develop resilience and sustainability for food security.

The Islamic Development Bank is already supporting initiatives related to response to COVID-19. Response package called the 3 Rs: Respond, Restore, and Restart, make up of a package of US \$2.3 Billion for the short to medium term and US \$10 billion for the long term. The Respond package three stages are: (i) Respond: This track delivers immediate action, strengthening health systems to provide care to the infected, building capacity in production of testing kits and vaccines; and building pandemic preparedness capacity, in cooperation with the G20 Global Initiative<sup>6</sup>. (ii) Restore: This track delivers medium term action through financing for trade and SMEs to sustain activity in core strategic value chains, and to ensure continuity of the necessary supplies mainly to the health and food sectors, and for other essential commodities. (iii) Restart: This track delivers long-term action to build resilient economies on solid foundations and catalyze private investment by supporting economic recovery with a targeted US \$10 billion that aims to unlock \$1 trillion USD worth of investments.

<sup>6</sup> The G20 is the Group of Twenty, a premier forum for international economic cooperation that brings together leaders from the both developed and developing countries from every continent that are the largest and fastest growing economies

The bank will deliver “The 3 Rs package” through a unified country platform, in line with G20 principles. It will partner with many implementing agencies, as well as private sector. For Member States to access support for their animal resources sector, the Member State must have identified, considered and presented livestock as a priority issue. Member States should engage the IsDB Governor’s Office, in country, to acquaint themselves with country’s broader request to IsDB on COVID-19, to better position the animal resources sector. At region level, RECS are encouraged to engage the IsDB regional hub Managers hosted in Dakar, Abuja, Rabat, Cairo and Kampala. At the continental level AU-IBAR and IsDB are already working on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which will define a framework of cooperation for the benefit of the animal resources sector in Africa.

## 6. PROPOSED CONTINENTAL RAPID ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON AFRICA’S ANIMAL RESOURCES AND DOCUMENTATION OF MITIGATION MEASURES

AU-IBAR commissioned consultants, Prof. Ahmed Eltigani Sidahmed and Prof. Cheikh Ly, presented the methodology and tools to undertake a Rapid Assessment in order to ascertain and provide indicative quantification of the impacts of COVID-19 on Africa’s animal resources sector; to document responses and recommendations on mitigation measures. These tools will be administered to MS, RECs, value chain and other actors across Africa’s animal resources sector, and the results of the assessment validated continentally. The Consultants will also consult stakeholders for the perspectives on a coordinated continental joint program for addressing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the animal resources and prepare the draft Program for validation by actors.

## 7. KEY ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 7.1 Key Issues

This initial Consultation, with submissions from actors in the public and private sector, representatives of membership associations, strategic partners and other stakeholders provides powerful insights into the impact of containment measures on the animal resources sector, the responses, and the mitigation measures being implemented or planned. The limited quantitative data from three Member States substantiated the observations across the continent.

#### i. **Containment measures differed and the underlying policy decisions in relation to the productive sectors had direct ramifications on the animal resources sector:**

The functionality of the sector dealing with handling animals, the environments they depend on, people, and perishable goods; and the cross-boundary nature of transactions, makes it inherently highly vulnerable to movement restrictions. Three broad approaches to containment, dictated largely by capacity to address the health crisis, were observed (i) Containment measures where animal resources were not designated as essential services; (ii) Containment measures where the animal resources sector was designated as providing essential services; and (iii) Containment

measures where the animal resources sector was designated as a priority sector for food security and economic growth and cushioned from the wider restrictions. All Member States reported some impact ranging from rapid curtailment of activities resulting in moderate to severe shock to the animal resources sector and widespread disruption; to varying levels of disruption of animal resources sector activities. Member States that cushioned their productive sectors had minimal disruptions and even realized a surplus production.

**ii. The impacts were felt immediately, are widespread, disruptive, and potentially far reaching:**

Impacts were rapidly felt across the animal resources sector, with MS reporting as much as 20 to 60% losses in some cases. There were negative impacts across the whole value chains, but much emanated from the weaknesses of the supply chains, related to reliance on regional and international sources of inputs; and food chains especially distribution channels leading to surpluses and high wastage in some areas and shortages in others. There is a disruption of demand for animals and animal sourced products due to increased fears of zoonotic diseases, food safety and hygiene. Many countries report/predict a sharp rise in food and nutrition insecurity. The vulnerability of pastoralists, fisher-folk, urban and rural poor, and of youth and women who are in largely informal employment is distinctly marked. MS reported that impacts are exacerbated by existing stresses including drought, locusts and floods.

**iii. Priority Areas for Emergency Response include, among others:**

The need to prioritize protection of food and nutrition security and livelihoods, Vaccination and surveillance to prevent outbreak of animal diseases; Social protection/ meet the food needs of the most vulnerable; Support to small producers and SME to continue to produce or conduct business; Strengthen support to on-going animal resources Programs and Projects to ensure sustainable livelihoods and mitigate the crisis: funding should not be withdrawn from the sector; promotion of the production and availability of foods of animal origin in a diversified and safe manner; and quantitative assessments to better understand the immediate impacts and to provide projections of medium and long term impacts

**iv. Priority Approaches to Mitigation include, among others:**

Mainstreaming of animal resources in stimulus packages to ensure resources concomitant to the contribution of the sector are provided to help the sector rebound; Institutional support and technical backstopping to Member States to enable them develop policy, legal, regulatory frameworks and strategies to respond to the impacts of COVID-19 on their animal resources sectors; Implementation of a one health approach; Build systemic capacity to delivery public and private technical livestock services; Advocacy for intra and inter-regional platforms for trade to meet food gaps, revitalize supply chains, and exchange of technologies and information; Consumer education and awareness raising; Support MS to adopt long term strategies including CAADP/ NAIPs; LiDeSA, AHSA, AWSA, PFPA; and a comprehensive approach to re-engineer and prepare the animal resources sector for future threats.

## 7.2 Recommendations

### 7.2.1 Priority Actions to Better Understand the Impacts of COVID-19, and Protect the Contribution and Continuity of Africa's Animal Resources Sector to Socio-Economic Development and Growth

- Recognition of the importance of the significant contribution Africa's animal resources make to livelihoods, food and nutrition security, incomes and economic growth of many AU MS and especially to rural and vulnerable populations: Member States should make adequate budgetary provision in support of the animal resources sector.
- Maintain the animal resources sector (supply chains, production and processing activities and infrastructure, public and private veterinary, extension and other services, food chains, and various markets) as an essential and frontline services in the fight against COVID-19 and in mitigating its economic impacts
- There is an urgent need to better understand the impacts of COVID-19 on economic sectors for evidence based decision making: need for a harmonized framework for assessing the impacts, implementation of response and efficacy of mitigation measures
- Need for a continental declaration of the control of animal and zoonotic diseases as a 'public good'
- Capacity building and back stopping of Members States in development of response and mitigation plans, resource mobilization and implementation

### 7.2.2 Emergency/ Immediate Responses

Emergency responses are needed to avert food and nutrition insecurity, protect vulnerable populations and stem loss of livelihoods and jobs; and ensure continuity of businesses and supportive programs and projects

- Coordinated actions in the animal resources sector across the continent to be initiated under the leadership of AU-IBAR
- Need for constant engagement of the animal resources sector actors including private sector and primary producers on containment measures
- Support rapid assessments of the impact on the animal resources sector and ensure monitoring of impacts and efficacy of response measures given the fluid situation and as containment measures change
- Emergency vaccination campaigns and collective treatment of livestock, and support for continued animal health surveillance and other public health services
- MS, RECs, AU-IBAR and other stakeholders to mobilise resources to ensure the contribution of the animal resources sector to livelihoods, food and nutritional security is protected and supported;
- Strategic funding partners to recognize the critical contribution of the animal resources sector to food and nutrition security, livelihoods, income generation and employment and prioritise continued and increased funding to the sector
- Social protection through cash transfers or in-kind support of vulnerable populations and producers whose access to markets is curtailed
- Financial packages to support supply side actors continue and increase their activities including

tax relief on animal feeds and other inputs, and promote subsidized payments (e.g insurance)

- Prioritization of funding to buttress and protect food supply chains\
- Enhance diversification and transformation of products and marketing channels
- Given the high mobility and human interaction in the animal resources sector, and the handling of animals and perishable goods, protocols be developed to ensure safety of actors and enhance implementation of sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures and food safety and hygiene
- Tailored financial packages to support the animal resources sector actors along all value chains e.g., deferment of loan payments, extension of suitable loan packages
- Use of ICT technologies for tele-vet medicine services to increase access to veterinary and extension services
- Promote E-commerce as a means of reducing the impact of COVID-19 on trade and marketing of animal commodities
- Involve African youth at the forefront of post COVID-19 animal resources development to provide jobs, and support innovation to generate technologies that support new ways of doing business

### **Approaches to Strengthen Mitigation of COVID-19 Impacts**

- Strengthen the epidemiological surveillance network and build capacities of veterinary laboratories and infrastructure
- Leverage among MS and RECs for increased for intra and inter-regional investment and cooperation to address supply and food chain gaps
- Support trade corridors to ease access to markets through the AfCFTA Agreement
- Systemic capacity building on policies, institutions, human resources and infrastructure for revitalization of the animal resources value chains in totality
- MS and RECs to adopt and implement policies, strategies and legislation on One Health
- AU-IBAR and RECs to establish strategic actions that engage the youth and women in inputs and service provision
- AU-IBAR with its development partners to build the capacities of the research institutes in African continent where needed for enabling them to develop and produce vaccines and drugs for combatting disease epidemics
- Coordinated action in the animal resources sector across the continent to be initiated under the leadership of AU-IBAR
- Build systemic capacity to delivery public and private technical livestock services

### **Accessing COVID-19 Stimulus Packages and Embedding More Strategic Long Term Approaches**

- MS to elevate animal resources as a priority and frontline sector for addressing and mitigating the impacts of COVID-19 in order to mainstream the sector to attract support from stimulus packages to help recovery and build resilience;
- Support MS to adopt long term strategies including CAADP/NAIPs; LiDeSA, AHSA, AWSA, PFPA
- A comprehensive approach is needed to address the multiple threats to food security in the regions including COVID-19, droughts, floods and locusts

- Need for MSs and RECS to reposition themselves to harness opportunities and address gaps presented by the pandemic, and to draw on experiences and lessons learned to re-engineer the animal resources sector post COVID-19

The participants thanked AU-IBAR for organizing this continental meeting on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the animal resources sector in Africa and the identification of mitigation measures. Participants also extended their appreciation to the AUC Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture and the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Republic of South Africa and Chair of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment

## 8. CLOSING REMARKS

In her closing remarks, H.E Commissioner DREA Ambassador Sacko commended the Meeting as an important platform that has generated useful insights to inform action in the agricultural sector which is at the frontline in mitigating COVID-19 impacts. The animal resources sector assessment and analysis will serve the whole agricultural sector and provide a precedent for other assessments of COVID-19 impacts. The pandemic is evolving, with an urgency to address co-lateral economic issues. The Assessment will provide information and an evidence base for shaping mitigating measures and recommendations to enhance allocation of resources. The Commissioner lent support to the call by AfDB, which is a Member of the continental Task Force to address COVID-19 impacts, urging Member States to prioritize the livestock sector. H.E concluded by assuring delegates that the output from the Meeting and the Rapid Assessment will feed into the Ministerial Meeting on inter-African trade to be organized in a month to accelerate the implementation of the AfCFTA

## Annex 1: E-Conference Agenda

Time (EAT)	Duration	Session	Facilitator
<b>Session 1: Introduction and Scene setting</b>			
13:00 – 13:05	5 Mins	Item 1.1 - Setting the scene	Prof. James Wabacha
13:05 – 13:10	5 mins	Item 1.2 - Opening and Welcome Remarks by Director AU-IBAR	Prof Ahmed Elsawalhy
13:10 – 13:15	5 mins	Item 1.3 - Statement by the Hon. Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Republic of South Africa and Chair of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment	H.E. Ms Angela Thoko Didiza
13:15 – 13:20	5 mins	Item 1.4 - Opening Remarks by Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission	H.E Amb. Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko
<b>Session 2: Impact of Covid-19 on Africa's Animal Resources Sector</b>			
13:20 – 13:25	5 mins	Item 2.1 - Background on Animal Resources and the impacts of Covid-19 on the sector in Africa	Dr. Sarah Ashanut Ossiya
13:25 – 13:40	15 mins (2 mins each)	Item 2.2. - Statements by the RECs (ECCAS, IGAD, ECOWAS, COMESA, UMA and SADC)	Moderator
13:40 – 14:25	45 mins (3 minutes per delegate)	Item 2.3 - Responses and sharing experiences by Member States on the impacts and key issues arising from the Covid-19 crisis Central Africa: Cameroon, DRC, Gabon East Africa: Kenya, Somalia, Sudan; North Africa: Algeria, Egypt, Morocco; South Africa: Madagascar, South Africa; Zambia; West Africa: Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone;	Moderator
14:25 – 14:35	10 mins (2 mins each)	Item 2.4 - Statements by Continental Associations ( AAP, AWARFA-N, AYL-FAIN, CAOPA 2A2E-V, 2A-VSB, LVFO)	Moderator
14:35 – 14:45	10 mins (2 Mins per presenter)	Item 2.5 - Statements by Animal Resources value chain actors (private sector, Associations and other stakeholders) Central Africa: PROPAC East Africa: ESADA West Africa: CORET	Moderator
14:45 – 14:57	12 mins (3 mins each)	Item 2.6 - Statements by Partner Organizations: Perspectives on impacts and strategic interventions	EU, AfDB, IsDB, IFAD
<b>Session 3: Priority Mitigation Measures and Coordinated Response</b>			
14:57 – 15:05	8 Mins	Item 3.1 – Introduction to the brain storming session on priority mitigation measures and coordination of efforts for more effective response to Covid-19 in Africa's Animal Resources sector	Prof. Cheikh Ly Prof. Ahmed E. Sidahmed
15:05 – 15:50	45 mins (3 mins per speaker)	Item 3.2 - Feedback from participants (15 participants)	Moderator
<b>Session 4: Communique and Closure</b>			
15:50 – 15:55	5 Mins	Item 4.1 - Presentation of the Draft Communique	Patricia Mweene Lumba

<b>Time (EAT)</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Session</b>	<b>Facilitator</b>
15:55 – 16:02	7 mins	Item 4.2 - Adoption of the Communique - Director of the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment	Dr. Godfrey Bahigwa
16:02 – 16:07	5 Mins	Item 4.3 - Closing Remarks	H.E Amb. Josefa Leonel Correa Sacko



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