



COMMUNIQUE

REGIONAL VALIDATION WORKSHOP FOR THE VALUE CHAIN ANALYSIS AND MAPPING OF THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF CENTRAL AFRICAN STATES (ECCAS) REGION PRIORITY POULTRY LIVESTOCK VALUE CHAIN REPORT



27th June - 1st July 2022 Naivasha, Kenya

I. Introduction

1. A regional workshop to validate the study report on the analysis and mapping of the poultry value chain of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) region was organized by the African Union – Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) from June 27 to July 1, 2022, in Naivasha (Kenya). This workshop is part of the implementation by AU-IBAR of the project on “Sustainable Development of Livestock for Livelihoods in Africa - Live2Africa” which has the general objective of « support the transformation of the African livestock sector for an increased contribution to sustainable and climate-resilient socio-economic development and equitable growth ».
2. The Central African region having opted for the development of the poultry value chain (egg and meat) as a priority regional value chain had identified three key strategic axes necessary for the development of the latter, with the key to three strategic actions:
 - Strategic axis 1: Strengthening of the political and regulatory framework
 - Strategic axis 2: Improvement of the poultry value chain
 - Strategic axis 3: Improve the information system.
3. To support the Central African region in the development of these strategic axes, AU-IBAR engaged a consultant to carry out an analysis and mapping of the regional value chain of poultry farming in the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). This stocktaking exercise will further strengthen and promote good governance and enabling environments for the transformation of the regional poultry value chain.
4. The objectives of the workshop were therefore aimed at:
 - a. Validate the report on the analysis and mapping of the regional poultry farming value chain in the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) region.
 - b. Review and enrich the proposed regional poultry value chain development plan
 - c. Develop a roadmap to guide the development of the regional poultry value chain upgrading strategy
5. Thirty-six (36) participants from different ECCAS countries including Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Chad, as well as the CEBEVIRHA representative were present and supported by a multidisciplinary AU-IBAR team. These participants were representative of the various stakeholders categories in the poultry value chain in the sub-region (directors of animal production, heads of veterinary offices, the private sector, marketing and processing experts, agricultural cooperatives, etc.)
6. The workshop was facilitated by Dr Christian K. TIAMBO, accompanying the Consultant Dr Ephrem R. C. HOUNKPE in the revision of the proposed document.
7. The workshop was held at the Lake Naivasha Resort Hotel (Naivasha, Kenya) and was officially opened with the welcoming words of Professor James Wabacha representing the Director of AU-IBAR who reiterated the need for the Center excellence in animal seeds in Dschang to serve as a training and conservation centre, and Professor Alain Richi Kamga-Waladjo representing CEBEVIRHA, who emphasized the importance of family poultry farming for the sub-region , the establishment of a realistic roadmap, and regional integration in the activities to be undertaken, including the management of the Center of Excellence for animal seeds in Dschang and the pilot farm in which each country in the sub-region must absolutely be involved in the conduct of activities in order to retain the character of sub-regional integration tools.

II. Workshop proceedings

1. The presentation of Project Live2Africa, the agenda and the objectives of the workshop was clearly declined by Dr. Mary Mbole-Kariuki. She recalled a local saying that « bad laws lead to bad economy» and the need for networking of the various stakeholders through the sub-regional parental farm.
2. In the course of the activities of the workshop in its various sessions, each section of the document was thoroughly explored and discussed in group work and in plenary session.
3. Following the presentation of the report on the analysis and mapping of the regional poultry farming value chain in the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) carried out by Dr. Hounkpe E René, the main observations resulting from the discussions were as follows:
 - The document should reflect the situation of all ECCAS member countries. The participants provided the Consultant with necessary information or additional information to better illustrate the final document.
 - The stoppage of imports in some countries such as Cameroon has brought an explosion of the poultry sector with the creation of inter-professions. This should serve as a model to encourage local production and consumption for the sub-region. As such, the use of locally improved local and mixed breeds to produce poultry meat and eggs should be promoted.
 - The Covid-19 crisis and other humanitarian crises have particularly affected the poultry sector. The most affected sector is that of the supply of raw materials used in the manufacture of poultry feed (mainly cereals and soya). It is necessary that within the ECCAS Community, there are strategies to act in a sustainable way to face these kinds of challenges by trying to reduce the dependence on imported poultry feed.
 - In several member countries of the Community, there is insufficient statistical data on poultry farming. It will be necessary to prioritize the use of data from official and recent sources, where they exist.
 - The contribution of subsistence poultry farming should be prioritized because it represents a significant part of poultry production in the sub-region.
 - The lack of qualified personnel in poultry farming is a handicap in the development of this sector. The lack or inadequacy of institutions that can provide diploma and qualifying training in this field is a challenge to be met.
 - Aspects related to the role of women and young people in the development of the poultry value chain in Central Africa should be highlighted in the document.
 - Illustrate the text of the report by inserting tables and graphs.
 - Some aspects may be seen as weaknesses in one country while they are strengths in others. Thanks to complementarity and integration within the Community, the member countries of the Community can strengthen each other. This integration must be felt at the level of the management of the activities of the parental pilot farm and the center of excellence for animal seeds.
 - The promotion of local and regional poultry production must go in parallel with considering the existence and development of the market both at the level of the Member States and of the sub-region, so that the products from the poultry farming may have an outlet.
 - The principle of the free movement of goods, services, and people within ECCAS was acted by the Heads of State of the Community. However, its implementation is not yet effective.
 - The low involvement of the private sector in animal health monitoring is one of the weaknesses of the current system.
 - Very few slaughterhouses are up to standard. Nevertheless, there are modern slaughterhouses in some countries, but they are under-exploited.
 - The financing of the poultry sector by commercial banks remains a challenge in ECCAS. Generally, commercial banks do not have financial products adapted to the livestock sector and do not agree to finance poultry farming projects.

III. The results of the workshop

The workshop produced the following results:

3.1 The report on the value chain analysis and mapping of the regional poultry farming value chain in the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) region has been reviewed and validated, and the consultant shall submit the final version to AU-IBAR.

3.2 The regional poultry value chain development plan has been reviewed and enriched, including:

Vision: A competitive, self-sufficient, and resilient poultry sector, vector of sustainable economic growth, food security and guarantor of the well-being of peoples, and regional integration in ECCAS by 2030.

Mission: Transforming the regional poultry sector through capacity building, improving access to improved poultry genetic resources, and promoting governance systems.

Strategic Pillar 1: Strengthening the capacities of Value Chain actors.

Strategic pillar 2: Development and promotion of local and resilient genetic resources.

Strategic pillar 3: Governance and support for the organization and structuring of actors.

Strategic pillar 4: Improvement of production systems and intra-regional trade.

Each strategic pillar has been broken down into strategic objectives and actions, and the main players involved have been defined.

3.3 A Roadmap to guide the regional poultry value chain implementation strategy was developed by the participants (see annex).

IV. Workshop Recommendations

From the various interventions during the workshop, the following general recommendations emerged:

Recommendations to ECCAS Member States

1. Need for each country to carry out a detailed analysis of the potentialities on different levels (supply of food inputs, production of day-old chicks, quality analysis, etc.), to specialize the actors and strengthen their capacities for exchanges for the supply of ECCAS in poultry products.
2. Create an environment conducive to investment, entrepreneurship, and the professionalization of the local poultry sector.
3. Facilitate and regulate private investment in the poultry sector.
4. Facilitate and finalize the establishment of strong national inter-professions in the poultry value chain and network them.
5. Support the local production of day-old chicks and the genetic improvement of local poultry genetic resources to limit dependence on imports and better withstand shocks.
6. Update statistical data on the poultry sector in the country.
7. Each ECCAS country should consider setting up tariff and non-tariff barriers to limit imports and develop the local poultry value chain.
8. Encourage the integration of major players/producers, processors, etc. within employers in order to make stronger pleas in favor of the local development of the poultry value chain in each ECCAS country.

9. In order to promote local production and consumption, ECCAS countries should draw up agricultural orientation laws in which importers of poultry inputs and products will be required to meet local supply quotas before the granting of authorizations for extra-community imports.
10. There is a need to exempt veterinary products and other poultry farming inputs and the subsidy thereof.
11. The promotion of local and regional poultry production must go hand in hand with considering the existence and development of the market both at the level of the Member States and of the sub-region, so that products from the poultry farming can have an outlet.
12. Strengthening the involvement of the private sector in animal health monitoring is one of the weaknesses of the current system

Recommendations to CEBEVIRHA and ECCAS

1. Finalize the establishment of the existing regional poultry interprofession (IPAR-CEMAC) and Network the interprofessions of the countries. Encourage the establishment of poultry inter-professional organizations at the national level.
2. Popularize Community texts governing trade in goods and products in general and poultry products in particular.
3. Put in place mechanisms for the effective application of the free movement of goods within the Community.
4. Update statistical data on the poultry sector in Central Africa.
5. Encourage the integration of major players/producers, processors, etc. within employers in order to make stronger pleas in favor of the local development of the poultry value chain in each country of the ECCAS region;
6. In order to promote local production and consumption, CEBEVIRHA and ECCAS should support member states in the development of agricultural orientation laws in which importers of poultry inputs and products will be required to meet quotas of local supplies before granting authorizations for extra-community imports.
7. Support member states in setting up quality control laboratories for the quality assurance of poultry products, and network them to make them more competitive on the market.
8. Inventory and develop a catalog of poultry animal genetic resources in ECCAS.
9. Put in place mechanisms to operationalize the free movement of goods, services and people, in order to facilitate and strengthen the regional animal value chain in general and the poultry value chain in particular.
10. Harmonization of legislation relating to the free movement of goods, services and persons within the Community is necessary.
11. Actively popularize community texts to facilitate their implementation by all the peoples of the community. To this end, a firm political will is necessary.

Recommendations to AU-IBAR

A- For the regional center of excellence for animal seeds of the Economic Community of Central African States, the participants made the following recommendations

1. Support ECCAS in the inventory, development and publication of a comprehensive and comprehensive catalogue of poultry animal genetic resources in ECCAS.
2. Accelerate the procedure of the ground assessment visit, as well as the provision of funds for the Centre of Excellence in Animal Seeds of Central Africa.
3. Rapidly set up an inclusive coordination unit with the participation of all ECCAS Member States for the regional centre of excellence for animal seeds based at the University of Dschang-Cameroon, so that its operationalization and management take on really a regional character.
4. Accelerate the procedure for its inauguration and operationalization

5. Accelerate the remobilization of the AU Taxonomic Advisory Group (AnGR-TAG) on Animal Genetic Resources and their assignment of the coordination of activities of the Center of Excellence under the aegis of technical agencies in charge of livestock issues in Africa central as in the other sub-regions.
6. Finalize and validate at the sub-regional level the memorandum of understanding and the material transfer agreement template as part of the operationalization of the center of excellence.
7. The member countries of ECCAS (Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Chad) express their gratitude to AU-IBAR for this commendable initiative, but request that the operationalization and management of this regional center of excellence for ECCAS be transparent, and reflect the regional integration endorsed by the Heads of State of the community.

B- For the Regional Parental Pilot Farm of the Economic Community of Central African States, the participants made the following recommendations

1. The member countries of ECCAS (Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Chad) express their gratitude to AU-IBAR for this commendable initiative, but request that also for the animal seeds center of excellence, the operationalization and management of the parent pilot farm should be transparent, and reflect the regional integration enacted by the heads of state of the community.
2. Accelerate the finalization procedure of AU-IBAR support to ECCAS for the establishment of the regional laying hen farm in Cameroon to support the development of the priority regional poultry value chain (meat and eggs) for livelihood.
3. AU-IBAR should set up an inclusive coordination unit with the participation of all ECCAS Member States for the parental farm which Cameroon will have the honor of hosting, so that its operationalization and management take on effectively the character of a regional public good.
4. AU-IBAR should already think about the legal framework for the management of the regional parental farm and the mechanisms and logistics for the delivery of products (chicks and fertilized eggs) to the various member countries of the sub-region.
5. Develop with ECCAS, CEBEVIRHA and the member states and validate at the sub-regional level the memorandum of understanding (MoU) and the model Material Transfer Agreement (MAT) for the transfer of products from the pilot parent farm as part of the operationalization of the latter.

V. Conclusion

Participants felt that the workshop was very informative, drawing on the cases of KALRO (Kenya) and AKM Glitter (Tanzania) presented, and that it made them feel considerably up to the task of developing the regional poultry value chain of Central Africa from locally available genetic resources.

The final report of the study as well as the final press release of the workshop should serve as advocacy for each country with AU-IBAR, the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (DARBE) of the African Union Commission, as well as with AU-IBAR's bilateral and multilateral partners for the development of the ECCAS poultry value chain.

Adopted on July 1, 2022, in Naivasha - Kenya