



### **Speech by the AU-IBAR Director**

## **"REGIONAL VALIDATION MEETING OR THE VALUE CHAIN ANALYSIS AND MAPPING OF THE CENTRAL AFRICA POULTRY REGIONAL VALUE CHAIN REPORT NAIVASHA, KENYA 27<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2022**

**Representative of the regional Economic Community (ECCAS)**

**Representative of the Sub regional focal point - CEBEVIRJA,**

**Distinguished participants,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**All protocols observed,**

On behalf of the Commissioner of the Department Agriculture, Rural. Development and Blue Economy (DARBE), of the African Union Commission, Her Excellency Ambassador Josefa Sacko, I would like to extend a warm welcome to you all to this regional validation workshop for the "**Value Chain Analysis and Mapping of the Poultry Regional Value Chain in Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) region**" report, held here in Naivasha, Kenya from 27<sup>th</sup> June to 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022..

**Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen**

1. Indeed, it is great honor for the African Union – Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) to be in the presence of a diverse array of poultry value chain actors from across the ECCAS region whom heeded the call to action to participate in this very important workshop that will ultimately shape the poultry sector in central Africa to higher dimensions of change.

2. The AU Agenda 2063, the Livestock Development Strategy for Africa (LiDeSA) and the AU-IBAR strategic plan (2018 – 2023) recognize that animal resources are key assets that support the livelihoods of rural communities in Africa. However, the potential of these resources is not fully exploited, and the continent remains a net importer of animal products. Hence AU-IBAR’s call to action to respond to a continental agenda aimed at the significant transformation of Africa’s Animal Resources Sector. AU-IBAR through the **Live2Africa Project** for the last five years has focused on strengthening the systemic capacity of continental, regional and national Livestock Sector stakeholders for the sustainable transformation of the sector.
3. I am pleased to highlight that the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) region is a beneficiary and collaborator in this project. Under this project, the ECCAS region prioritized the development and transformation of the poultry (meat and eggs) Value Chains and identified three key intervention areas; **(i) Strategic Action 1: Strengthening the Policy and Regulatory Framework** **(ii) Strategic Action 2: Improvement of the poultry value chain** and **(iii) Strategic Action 3: Improve the Information System**. These strategic interventions are currently under various phases of implementation through collaborative action of AU-IBAR and ECCAS.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen**

4. Agriculture is the mainstay of most of Central African region economies, and processing agricultural products is a primary regional industrial activity. The livestock sector plays a pivotal role in contributing towards, food and nutritional security as well as being the economic backbone especially for countries in Central Africa region. The contribution of poultry to household food security in ECCAS region has been reported at 3.3 kg to 4.1 Kg of poultry meat consumed out of 10 Kg of meat consumed per inhabitant per year against a world average of 14 kg of poultry meat and 60 eggs per inhabitant per year. This indeed shows a great disparity but also is indicative of the potential of growth that is still available in the ECCAS region considering the importance of poultry as indicated in the reported contribution of poultry meat to food security varying between 15 and 20% in the household while that of eggs is between 20% and 30%.
5. In response to the growing global and continental needs to enhance the poultry value chain efficiency, AU-IBAR has heeded the call to action and in collaboration with the Regional

Economic Community of Central Africa (ECCAS), has undertaken various interventions that include;

- a. **Value Chain Analysis and Mapping of the Poultry Regional Value Chain in Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) region** to further strengthen and promote good governance and enabling environments for the transformation of the regional poultry livestock value chain (PLVC). This activity has yielded excellent outputs such as;
  - A comprehensive characterization and value chain stakeholders' ecosystem mapping
  - SWOT analysis of poultry value chain in ECCAS region that have enabled the identification of strategic opportunities of investment across PLVC
  - Proposed Poultry value chain pathways and maps across the PLVC components
  - Proposal of a Regional poultry value chain development plan for the ECCAS region
  - As well as the identification of key intervention areas to guide formulation of a Regional Poultry Value Chain upgrading strategy
- b. **Building of technical and infrastructural capacities** through training personnel drawn from national agricultural extension services, women and youth farmer associations, poultry breeders associations amongst others on the use of technologies and innovations in poultry rearing, best-bet practices including recording keeping, networking and use of digital applications for marketing. A training manual on use of technologies and innovations in local poultry production has also been published and shared with member states.
- c. **Proposed establishment of a parent stock farm to be hosted in Cameron that will supply quality genetic stock of day-old chicks to all stakeholders**
- d. **Hosting of the region's African Union Animal Resources Seed Center of Excellence at the University of Dschang.** This center will not only serve as a cryo-conservation center but also as a training center on technologies and innovations supporting conservation and sustainable utilization of indigenous genetic materials aimed at improving poultry production and productivity.

**Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen**

6. Livestock value chains are complex, comprising compound networks, relationships, and transactions, as at each stage or transaction, the animal or its product gains “value” either as its quality improves or as its delivery to the final consumer is made more efficient. Therefore, to ensure efficiency, quality and system competitiveness, value chain analysis and mapping is critical as it provides important insights into four main issues of any sector, these include macroeconomic issues; Governance issues, social capital issues and dynamics of interlinkages
7. Therefore, Ladies and Gentlemen, this regional workshop has been convened to present the findings of **the study** to the member states for their enrichment and validation. It is my hope that through the rich discussions, the region’s poultry value chain will further be propelled to new horizons, whose economic impact will be felt by current and future generations.
8. This report provides a foundation for the next envisioned step, that involves the **development of a regional upgrading strategy of the PLVC**. The strategy will be the compass that will guide the ECCAS region member states towards strategic actions that will promote a market-oriented poultry value chain system. This strategic document should ensure that greater productivity, improved supply linkages, strengthened relationships among suppliers and increased investment and regional collaboration are catalyzed. These actions should ultimately lead to increased incomes for all actors.

### **Distinguished guests, ladies and Gentlemen**

AU-IBAR assures the region of her commitment to ensuring the transformation of the poultry value chain through providing the necessary technical and institutional support. We remain hopeful that through the crosspollination of ideas and practices as well as the increased use of various technologies, innovations and tools in the sector and regional collaboration, the poultry value chain will grow in leap and bounds and become the economic backbone and bread basket of Central Africa region, as guided by the report you will validate and the regional upgrading strategy you are about to initiate.

We thank the European Union for providing financial support to Live2 Africa and yourselves for accepting this invitation despite your busy schedules.

It is my hope that the vision of the AU Agenda 2063 of the “**Africa we want**” will be realized through this collaborative action at regional and continental level.

Thank you for your kind attention and I wish you successful deliberations.