



COMMUNIQUE



Workshop on the “Development of proposed pathways for adoption and domestication of priority actions and other policy instruments for SADC Member States.”

Arusha, Tanzania on 7 – 8 July 2022



Background and Introduction

The African Union – InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) in the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (DARBE) of the African Union Commission (AUC) is implementing a 5 year project *on "Sustainable Development of Livestock for Livelihoods in Africa - Live2Africa"* with the overall objective of supporting the transformation of the African livestock sector for an increased contribution to sustainable and climate-resilient, socio-economic development and equitable growth. The project pioneers a coherent continental livestock value chain programme approach to build systemic capacity in seven livestock components, that include: Investment in Value Chains, Animal Health; Animal Production, Productivity and Ecosystem Management; Resilience Building; Technology adoption in the Value Chains to inputs, services and markets; and strengthening institutional capacities. The Live2Africa Project works in close collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Member States.

In the SADC region, the Live2Africa Project has implemented a number of activities which have resulted in the development of some important regional policy instruments, frameworks, protocols, standards, among others which are likely to bring benefits to the animal resources sector. It is therefore, anticipated that Member States in the SADC region, will embrace these policy instruments by adopting and domesticating them. However, experience has shown that, despite the apparent benefits of doing so, the level of adoption and domestication is low in SADC. The reasons for the low adoption and domestication of policy instruments by SADC Member States and the need to develop appropriate and sustainable pathways, were the main subjects for conducting this workshop.

AU-IBAR therefore, held a workshop on *"Development of proposed pathways for adoption and domestication of priority actions and other policy instruments for SADC Member States"* from the 7th to 8th July, 2022 in Arusha, Tanzania.

Fifty-four (54) participants from 12 SADC Member States (Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe), including a representative of COMESA and a consultant on value chains, attended the workshop. The delegates comprised Directors of Animal production, Chief Veterinary Officers, National coordinators, farmers, representatives of parastatals, breeders' associations and the private sector.

Workshop proceedings

The Acting Director of AU-IBAR Dr Nick Nwankpa, on behalf of the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment (DARBE) of the African Union Commission welcomed the delegates. In his remarks, he acknowledged the United Republic of Tanzania for playing a major role in supporting the implementation of interventions by AU-IBAR in the Eastern and Southern African regions. The Director highlighted that AU IBAR, through

the Live2Africa Project, has responded to the continental agenda of the transformation of the African livestock sector through strengthening the systemic capacity of continental, regional and national livestock sector stakeholders for the economic, environmental and social sustainable transformation of the sector.

The workshop was officially opened by Prof Hezron Emmanuel Nonga, Director of Veterinary Services, on behalf of the Honourable Minister Mashimba Ndaki, of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries of Tanzania. Prof Nonga encouraged participants to actively participate in the development of regional policy instruments and enhance their adoption and domestication by their respective national governments.

On behalf of the Secretary General of COMESA, Her Excellency Chileshe Kapwepwe, Mr. Pardon Njerere noted that these workshops are key in determining the direction and growth pathways of the regional value chains based on strong background of shared vision and joint programming. Mr Njerere emphasized that COMESA presents a huge market opportunity for SADC. However, this market requires a well-coordinated approach to be competitive and requires the adoption and domestication of regional priority actions and instruments through sharing of experiences, lessons learnt and best practices.

Dr Edward Nengomasha, supported by Dr Mary Mbole-Kariuki, from AU-IBAR, facilitated the plenary proceedings of the workshop.

Objectives of the workshop

The Workshop agenda was read and adopted. Dr Edward Nengomasha of AU-IBAR outlined the objectives and the expected outcomes of the workshop.

The main objective of the workshop was to develop pathways for the adoption and domestication of regional instruments by SADC Member States. The specific objectives were to:

1. Review causes of low adoption and domestication
2. Conduct a review of proposed pathways for adoption and domestication of regional instruments
3. Critically analyze the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of these pathways
4. Propose other pathways
5. Rank and select the pathways which will most likely result in higher rates of adoption and domestication
6. Provide details of the necessary steps for each pathway
7. Develop a working document/template on the proposed pathways for the SADC region

Deliberations on pathways of adoption and domestication of policy instruments

The need to develop sustainable pathways for the adoption and domestication of policy instruments was highlighted. The main challenges impacting on the adoption and domestication of SADC policy instruments by Member States were identified and extensively discussed. These included:

- Resistance to change
- Lack of efficient communication channels at national, regional and continental levels
- Lack of political will/buy-in at national and regional levels
- Weak monitoring and evaluation systems
- Lack of legally binding agreements/MOUs/Contracts that can enforce adoption and implementation
- Issue of Member States' sovereignty poses challenges to implementation of regional agendas
- Government priorities not aligned to the regional, continental agendas
- Lack of budget allocations at national level
- Excessive bureaucracy which stalls the processes of adoption and implementation
- Lack of ownership of these actions at the grassroots level; no bottom-up, farmer-centred approaches adopted
- Poor institutional arrangements; lack of clear roles and/or specific actions

The challenges experienced by different countries and stakeholder groups within each country were different. Therefore, using a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analyses using the **Theory of Change** process, participants deliberated on the challenges faced by the different stakeholder groups and made attempts to identify potential solutions. Some pathways with the potential to enhance adoption and domestication were also proposed. Participants presented the systems currently in use in their respective countries. It was clear that SADC countries have varying systems and procedures which are meant to result in the adoption and domestication of SADC instruments. It was also apparent that there were some similarities among the pathways which could be harnessed and incorporated into pathways/systems that could work in the different countries. Therefore, the country systems will be consolidated and together with some of the proposals, the synthesized and harmonized pathways, will be presented to the SADC Member States for their consideration.

The participants also discussed the status of communication and information flow and challenges associated with the working arrangements between Member States and the regional institution, SADC. Several issues and challenges were discussed. The workshop developed some recommendations which should contribute to better working relationship between Member States and SADC and its institutions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Encourage Member States to pay their annual subscription fees to facilitate the running of operations of the organization and ensure revival of SADC structures.
2. Urged Member States to prioritize the regulatory instruments to enhance adoption and domestication.
3. Advised Member States that upon receiving correspondence from SADC, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to timeously communicate with the line ministries and copy National Coordinators.
4. Called for the empowerment of the Sub-Regional Focal Point to enable it to serve the Member States.
5. Advised that the Livestock Technical Committee (LTC) meetings at SADC be attended by both Veterinary and Animal Production technical staff to ensure balance of representation on production and health issues.
6. Requested AU-IBAR to communicate with SADC Secretariat on the issue of reviving the Sub-Committee responsible for livestock production.

An **Action Plan/Roadmap** with timelines, roles and responsibilities was developed and agreed to by the participants.

Adopted 8 July 2022 at Arusha, Tanzania.