



LIVE2AFRICA CLOSE OUT MEETING
Speech by Amb. J. Sacko, Commissioner,
8th June, 2023

Honorable Minister, Hon Bright Rwamirama
Representative of the CS, Kenya
Special Advisor to the Minister, Cote d'Ivoire
EU Representative

Representatives from Regional Economic Communities,
Delegates from AU-MSs

Staff of AU-IBAR

Media represented here,

Distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honour for me to participate in today's Close- out Ceremony for the Sustainable Development of Livestock for Livelihoods in Africa (Live2Africa) Project. When the Sustainable Development for Livelihoods Project, an initiative of the African Union InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources, officially concludes on June 15th, 2023, it will have been a resounding success.

First, I would want to give a brief overview of the Project we are all here to discuss and celebrate. After 78 Months of execution, this project will finally end next week, having begun in December 2016. It is wrapping up on a strong note, having accomplished a lot. Let me highlight a few examples:

- First: The Live2Africa Project has, galvanized national, continental and regional momentum through establishment and strengthening of stakeholder platforms and networks
- Second, has undertaken institutional strengthening through policies, strategies, legislations and programs
- Third, it has undertaken capacity building through development of skills competencies and capabilities of stakeholders
- Fourth, Improved functionality of priority regional livestock value chains
- Fifth, enhanced Knowledge management – Establishment of online platforms for knowledge sharing and engagement

Ladies and gentlemen, I want to emphasise that these results hold a significance that goes beyond mere numerical values. They will improve people's lives through:

- Sustainable livestock-based livelihoods, improved Food and Nutrition Security
- Create decent Jobs for youth and Women
- Contribute to the economic development of Countries
- Better and increased investment in livestock value chains;
- Better animal health through improved animal health delivery services;
- Better management of animal production, productivity and ecosystem management systems;
- Increased technology adaption in livestock value chains
- Improved access to better access to inputs, services, markets and value addition systems
- Increased awareness of better livestock development practices through the mobilization of institutions and stakeholders; and

It is also worth noting that the Project helped shape certain major African Union efforts and declarations on the continent. Here are just a few examples:

1. The Agenda 2063: The Africa we want
2. The Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agriculture Growth & Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihood
3. The Livestock Development Strategy (LiDeSA) among others

Ladies and Gentlemen recall that the African Union theme of the year 2023 is “The Year of AfCFTA: Acceleration of the African Continental Free Trade Area Implementation.” And I would like to state that the results of this project have contributed significantly towards the realization of the This year’s Theme objective.

Ladies and gentlemen, based on these results, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all the government entities and stakeholders who have been instrumental in the implementation of this project, namely the Regional Economic Communities, AU Member States, Partners, Livestock sector actors and stakeholder among others.

I also apologize in advance if I have forgotten any other major contributors. The contributions of both leaders and teams cannot be overstated, and I would like to acknowledge the European Union as a funding partner that has greatly supported Africa Union in its endeavor to sustainably develop animal resources in the African Continent.

Ladies and gentlemen, the partnership between the European Union and AU-IBAR, as well as the African Union as a whole, has spanned several decades. Our partnership has been dedicated to creating the most effective mechanisms and tools to address the evolving needs and increasing expectations of the African population.

We are all aware that every happy ending has its origins. For a moment, I would want to rewind to 2017 and think about a couple of the key design choices that ultimately allowed this project to produce the results we have seen thus far.

To begin, the Project was not conceived as a one-off intervention, but rather as a means of providing systemic support to national and regional stakeholders in order to improve the livestock sector's performance and adaptability in the face of trade, animal disease, and climate change.

Second, the initiative collaborated with local stakeholders to determine what measures should be prioritized. Stakeholder buy-in was facilitated through the adaptation of regional livestock value chains, which also provided the prerequisites for meeting regional needs by filling in identified gaps or responding to regional strengths.

Third, utilization of country-level systems for delivery was prioritized in order to assist government delivery goals. Key players at the national level took a chance on this method, and it paid off with improved project results.

Ladies and gentlemen, success is a sight to behold, but what often goes unnoticed are the tireless efforts and unwavering support that pave the way for such success.

On that note, I would like to draw your attention to the remarkable efforts of Live2Africa. As a result of hard work, we have witnessed the emergence of several groundbreaking Projects, namely, the Pan-African Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) Programme, The One Health Data Alliance Africa Project (OHDAA), and the Resilient African Feed & Fodder Systems Project (RAFFS) and in the pipeline the Pastoral Platform at AU-IBAR. I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations on this momentous occasion.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to announce that this milestone has also welcomed other donors to our cause. Notably, GiZ and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation have joined us in our efforts. It is again with great pleasure that I announce the appreciation of the African Union for the efforts of our cooperating partners in supporting the development needs of our continent. Thank you.

Ladies and gentlemen, as we commence our journey towards the implementation of the recently sanctioned initiatives aimed at enhancing cooperation among stakeholders in the animal resources sector, we eagerly anticipate leveraging the accomplishments and insights gained from the Live2Africa Project.

Ladies and gentlemen, while there are undoubtedly numerous success stories to share, it is important to acknowledge that every development effort comes with its own set of lessons to be learned. We must remain vigilant in identifying areas for improvement and strengthening our interventions for the future. Ladies and gentlemen, I sincerely hope that you will share with us these aspects for sustainable development of livestock in Africa as well.

A final round of gratitude is in order before I wrap up my remarks. So, I would like to thank RECs, MSs, Technical Partners (FAO, WOA, ILRI), livestock sector actors and stakeholders for their support and collaboration. Thank you for the many years of hard work, professionalism, and team spirit.

By working together, we were able to succeed.

I wish you all a good day! God Bless You All.