Food Security Technical Secretariat (FSTS):
A permanent body within the State and in charge of supporting food security decision making process through provision of regular food security information to State authorities and other decision makers.

Representatives of FSTS:

MoAARF (Livestock and Fisheries, Crop Production and Marketing), MoH (Nutrition sector)

Blue Nile State
Food Security Technical Secretariat (FSTS)
Livestock Policy Brief No.1/February 2014

Summary:

- BN state is known for its huge livestock with a total estimated livestock population of 15.28 million (Source: annual vaccination number).
- Pastoralism and agro-pastoralism is among the key farming systems in BN where majority of rural households rely for their subsistence.
- BN state is also endowed with huge area of rain fed agriculture with significant amount of crop residues that is essential to promote stall feeding and encourage investment in animal fattening for small holder and medium scale enterprises.
- It is also very clear that there are both positive and negative environmental impacts related to the livestock production in the state. Hence, it is important for stakeholders to make due consideration of the environment in designing the different early recovery and developmental projects in the state.
- It is recommended that short and long-term policy and strategic actions are required localizing the forage production, maintaining herds and rising awareness among policy makers and stakeholders.

Purpose of this brief focuses on 3 questions

1- What are the main challenges and problems that cause livestock production especially fattening enterprises in the state?
2- Why large numbers of animals are used for slaughtering annually?
3- What polices are recommended to promote livestock production in the state?

Background

Blue Nile State is located in the south-east of Sudan. The State borders Sinnar State from the North, Ethiopia from the East and South, White Nile state from the West and Upper Nile State from the South West. It extends from latitudes 12°40’ to 9°20’, and from longitudes 35°10’ to 33°30’. It has an area of 38,500km² and sparsely populated with an estimated total population of 1017510 projections of 2013 (CSB).

- Administratively BN State is divided into six localities: Damazin, Kurmuk, Roseires, Tadamon, Bau and Giessen.
- BNS has the highest livestock population in the Sudan mainly because of its proportionally high sheep population (source: GDoAR report).
- The total livestock population is estimated at 15.28 million out of which 5.7 million is cattle, 1.43 million goats, 8 million Sheep and 150,000 camels. These numbers of livestock meet the state demands of animal protein consumption and the surplus is exported to other states and beyond.

In addition, the traditional pattern of pastoralist and agro-pastoralist farming systems determine the livelihoods of the majority rural households in the State. The rural communities rely on livestock products to cover the deficits during the difficult and unfavorable production year and seasons. The livestock raising system is more of subsistence form with transhumance with limited support of the basic services.

The demand for nutrition

With the existence of huge livestock population and relative advantage of great agricultural residues, BNS constitutes a conducive environment for investment in areas of cattle and sheep fattening enterprises. Based on the experiments and studies...
that conducted by Animal Resource Research and other developmental projects, significantly, the nutrition components for feeding animals either to produce milk or meat when they contain one of the fodder additives (Molasses, Bagas or cotton and sesame cake). The daily gross consumption rate for cattle ranges between 0.7 to 1.2 kg per day (according to the breed). On the other side, the gross consumption rate for sheep is about 4 kg per month. However, shortage and severe deficiency of industrial products have contributed to the limited livestock production specially the fattening enterprises in the State.

Livestock production challenges and drivers in the state

Livestock in BN holds great potential towards contributing to increased incomes of the farmers and animal holders, however, limited supply of fodder additives at state level such as (Molasses, Bagas or cotton and sesame cake) negatively affect the productivity of livestock sector in the state.

Majority of the livestock fattening enterprises import forage and agricultural industrial by-products from Sinnar, White Nile and Khartoum. Moreover, the supply and provision of the feed and fodder is affected by scarcity and inaccessibility of land for producing fodders because of rain-fed agriculture expansion over the range land. As a result of these challenges make some investors to shift and raise their livestock fattening activities in the other states of available livestock services.

The different challenges facing the livestock production in the state resulted with an increased price of livestock products mainly meat. Large numbers of animals are slaughtered daily and pulling female animals for slaughtering to cover shortage of animal protein. (Source: GDoAR report)

Trends in meat consumption

Figure 1 and figure 2 shows the number of male and female cattle and sheep slaughtered in Damazine. This example could explain the low weight of the cattle and sheep which resulted in to pulling large number for slaughtering over the four years ago to cover the demand in the markets. This experience mainly slaughtering female cattle and sheep threaten the future of herd size in the state. It is also important to point that few number of fattened and healthy animals fulfills the demand rather than slaughtering large number.

Environment impacts and other positive results

Uncontrolled and intensification of livestock production could contribute to environmental degradation through the discharge of raw wastes into the environment and overgrazing. Overgrazing may results in problems of erosion and weed invasion of pastures. Positively, the manure of animals increase the fertility of soil as well as it has other important uses such as manufacturing of building materials mainly in bricks production. Interestingly, the blood of slaughtered animals is used in installation of provender for feeding poultry and fish.

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Possible action and recommendation

Based on the different studies and the ministry experiences the following areas are potential for livestock development in Blue Nile State.

Encourage livestock production in the state by reviewing existing potential and livestock development polices and strategies.

1- Adoption and localization of forage production at state level through facilitation of:
   ✓ Licenses of agricultural lands and transactions for investors and breeders in coordination with the department of Range and Pasture to encourage livestock production.
   ✓ Advocacy for facilitating micro-finance for herders and investors.

2- Maintaining herds through:
   ✓ Fattening male animals to reduce the large numbers of animals that are slaughtered on a daily basis.
   ✓ Awareness rising for breeders and traders, they should oblige with the ideal weight and age of slaughtering according to the type of breed

3- Increase awareness among stakeholders, and in particular policy-makers of the importance of livestock in the state.

Participating institutions collaborate and provide regular livestock and fisheries information:

1. MoAARF:
   ✓ General Directorate of Animal Resources:
   ✓ Range and Pasture Department 
   ✓ Animal Production Department

2. Animal Resources Research

Abbreviations:

✓ FSTS: Food Security Technical Secretariat
✓ BNS: Blue Nile State
✓ MoAARF: Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Resources and Forestry.
✓ MoH: Ministry of Health
✓ CSB: Central Statistic Bureau
✓ GDoAR: General Directorate of Animal Resources

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