

Assessment and monitoring of changes in interest of pastoralists in selling their livestock for their livelihood diversification in Ngorongoro District, Tanzania

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Context: Pastoralism is the most dominant land use form in the arid and semi-arid rangelands of Sub-Saharan Africa. In many nomadic pastoral areas, rangeland-based lifestyles, their associated industries and the rangeland environment are under threat. Some reasons include increasing human population, extreme climatic fluctuations, animal diseases, over estimation of the grazing capacity, land-use changes and the demand from an increasingly important cash-based economy.

Despite of the increasing great potential of local and international high quality meat market, the performance of the traditional livestock industry is still very poor and unpredictable. Pastoralists do not benefit from their kind of livelihood for the purposes of improving their living conditions and increasing household sustainable income. Livestock are sold at very low prices; meat quality and the market information are not well known and not properly documented.

In view of this, the United Republic of Tanzania intends to commercialize the livestock industry so as to stimulate its development. This will eventually increase incomes of the livestock farmers and also increase livestock contribution to national GDP. In order to achieve these, there is a need to investigate on the change of interests by the livestock farmers on selling their livestock at high market value so as to empower pastoralists for livelihood diversification and to establish the concrete livestock and livestock products market flow (market

networking) between the pastoralists, ranches, feedlot units and the consumers of the high quality meat both at local and international level.

Objectives: The objective of this study is to examine the extent of change in interests and the factors influencing the change in the interests by the pastoralists in selling their livestock for improved livestock and livestock products market flow, pastoralists' sustainable increased incomes and ultimately improved human livelihood diversification.

Methodology: The study, will be conducted from August to December 2007, and will employ a cross-sectional design with a sample of 360 randomly selected respondents from 12 villages in Ngorongoro District, Arusha Region, Tanzania. Structured interviews will be conducted to each head of household selected for interviews by using Likert scale instrument. Focus group discussions (FGDs) will be conducted with various livestock farmers, and livestock traders in the area under study. The individual in-depth interviews will be done with the key informants. Data analysis will be done using SPSS.

Expected study output: The study findings are expected to contribute towards: sustainable increase in household income (increase in household entitlements); increase in opportunities for pastoralists livelihood diversification; improvement in household Food Security; production of meat with higher market value; increase in meat quality; decrease in production costs; reliable/stable and sufficient livestock market flow and supply; increased in the national GDP; reduction in meat import; and increase in export of high quality meat.