

Improving supply of safe and quality livestock and meat exported from the Horn of Africa to Middle East and Gulf Countries

Dear colleagues,

On behalf of FAO and IGAD/ICPALD I am happy to present you the first newsletter of the GCP/RAF/490/ITA project, in which you will find information on some of the recent events, project activities and media publications related to the project and livestock trade from the Horn of Africa (HoA) to the Middle East.

I am furthermore pleased to inform you that the Government of Italy has approved the second instalment of the project, which is expected to start in September 2016. This second phase will build upon the work undertaken since the beginning of 2015.

In this regard, a no cost extension of two months of has been approved as well, until 31 August 2016. The extension will ensure continuity of project activity before the beginning of the second phase

I am looking forward for further collaboration towards improving and growing the livestock trade.

- Mr Paolo Lucci Chiarissi, FAO Project Coordinator

Over the last months we have witnessed a substantial interest and involvement in this project by both public and private sectors in IGAD member states. This came during the time in which we undertook the GULF Food Fair for the private sectors involved in livestock & meat trade, as well as the training for IGAD trade counsellors stationed in Middle East and North Africa on enhancing their understanding of import requirements, trade promotion and networking.

Looking forward, we hope to generate more resources to sustain the gains that will be made after the end of this project.

- Dr Ameha Sebsibe, Coordinator for IGAD components

About the project

FAO and IGAD are jointly implementing this project with the aim to enhance livelihoods and incomes of pastoral and agro-pastoral communities in the IGAD region, through improved competitiveness of the livestock and meat trade to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

The project has four main outputs that interlink to achieve the final project outcome.

It is a regional initiative implemented in seven IGAD countries - Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda - with full involvement of IGAD Secretariat/ICPALD and IGAD member states.

The project's four main outputs:

- 1 Training, awareness and capacity building for the major actors of livestock and meat value chains
- 2 Water and pasture available to transported animals along the trade routes
- 3 IGAD regional livestock market information network forum established and functional
- 4 Business relations between HoA countries and the Middle East and Gulf countries supported

Recent events

Launching Workshop (7-8 Dec 2016)

The launching workshop of the project was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and was attended by representatives of six IGAD Member States, the Italian Embassy and Italian Development Cooperation, AU-IBAR, IGAD-ICPALD and IGAD Business Forum, private sector, ECTAD and FAO. See also: <http://bit.ly/292pypx>

Participation in the GULF Food Fair (21-24 Feb 2016)

Live animal and meat export traders, Chamber of Commerce and trade officers from the IGAD member states were facilitated to participate in the Gulf food fair that took place in Dubai. Delegates learned from major meat exporting countries such as Australia, New Zealand, Brazil, India and were able to share their promotional materials during the fair and a meeting with the Dubai Chamber of Commerce.

Training of trade counselors (21-24 Mar 2016)

Trade counsellors from IGAD member states stationed in their embassies in Middle East & North Africa (MENA) countries and others trade counselors from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and/or international trade based in the capitals of seven IGAD member states attended a 4-days training in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This training was followed by a bonding session on 25 March 2016 whereby trainees were joined by Chief Veterinary Officers and some meat export traders from seven IGAD member states.

HACCP training workshops (May 2016)

In May 2016, two 2-day training workshops on the principles of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) were conducted in Sudan and Djibouti. Representatives from relevant ministries and export slaughterhouses

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participated in a series of trainings on how to integrate systematic and preventative approaches to food safety. The trainings provided an important foundation on food safety and quality requirements necessary for the strengthening of value chains and to improve the competitiveness of livestock and meat trade to the Middle East and Gulf countries. See also: <http://bit.ly/28E3jQQ>

Support to the regional policy hub (Nov 2015 - Jun 2016)
IGAD/ICPALD has been continuously supporting the regional policy hub meetings, in which policies and trade barriers affecting livestock trade have been presented and discussed. A policy brief is also drafted on this aspect.

Project activities

Output 1: Training, awareness and capacity-building

Under this output the project intends to give stakeholders the capacities to supply safe and quality livestock and meat in conformity with the requirements of importing countries. All the material required for the Training of Trainers - who will later train the stakeholders along the value chain (primary producers, fatteners, transporters, traders, transformers and service providers) in good practices related to their specific activities – has been developed and the training is planned for October 2016. For the HACCP work (which aims at helping three abattoirs (two in Sudan and one in Djibouti) to get certification for meat export, the first phase related to abattoirs situation analysis and HACCP guiding manual preparation is completed. The coaching of the abattoirs for effective certification will start in October 2016.

Output 2: Water and pastures availability

A regional baseline and good practices study on livestock routes, water and fodder availability was conducted between from November 2015 and April 2016 to identify in the four main livestock exporting countries of the IGAD region. Together with local stakeholders, the location and direction as well as priority water and fodder interventions were identified. The study also documented good practices on rangeland rehabilitation and fodder production & marketing with potential for replication and up-scaling. The baseline report is currently being finalized, and will form the basis for project activities during the second phase of the project.

Output 3: IGAD regional Livestock market information Network Forum

Between November 2015 and June 2016, extensive support to the national and the regional policy hubs has been provided. Preparation is underway to undertake assessment of the existing mechanisms of dissemination of market information to producers in the region and support implementation of enhanced system.

Output 4: Business relations supported

Next to the participation in the Gulf Food Fair and the training of trade counselors, consultations have been undertaken with member states to identify the most appropriate embassy where the IGAD promotion unit will have to be anchored, and whether it will be in Saudi or United Arab Emirates. This output furthermore includes exploring alternative markets for livestock and livestock products. A concept note has been developed and organization is ongoing to explore markets in Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, and Thailand. A joint IGAD-MENA committee will be established soon to enhance trust and transparency among exporting and importing countries

In the news

Atelier de formation à Djibouti sur le « Renforcement des capacités de système HACCP pour l'exportation de la viande » (15 May 2016)

Djibouti's daily newspaper, "La Nation" (Edition No.93), reported on the 2-day training workshop on "Building HACCP capacity in Djibouti for meat export" which was held on 11-12 May 2016 in Djibouti. The workshop was conducted within the government's framework to strengthen the HACCP plan for the Country and ensure that meat products meet quality standards for both the national market and for export. Read more at: <http://bit.ly/29AVw1q>

"Somalia exports 5.3 million animals, 6% growth in 2015" (14 April 2016)

Export of live animals to Gulf nations continued to be Somalia's leading foreign exchange earner in 2015, registering steady annual growth with a 6 percent increase, according to latest data by FAO. "Somalia saw increased demand in 2015 for live animals in the Gulf mainly due to increased investment in animal health services by FAO and other organizations, which is key condition imposed by the importing countries". Read more at: <http://bit.ly/1SiZsmI>

Training of trade counselors & bonding session

The training of trade counselors has been recorded and disseminated on YouTube and other relevant networks. See also: <http://bit.ly/298E9o6>

IGAD member states participation in GULF Food Fair

The views of the beneficiaries on the GULF Food Fair have been recorded, and can be accessed at: <http://bit.ly/29bRtIA>

Contacts

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