

# ***Will African breeds Withstand the Challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century***

***Policy issues and challenges for sustainable use and conservation of African Animal Genetic Resources***



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# Overview of the presentation

African Livestock production systems are changing rapidly

Implications for animal genetic resources and need for action

Policy issues and challenges

Funding mechanisms



# Changes in African Livestock Production Systems



## Drivers of change

- Population growth and urbanization
- Increases in income
- Market liberalization
- Climate change



## Consequences

Growth in demand of livestock products

Pressure on and degradation of the resource base

Increased vulnerability of small holder farmers

Increased competition



## Responses

- Intensification of mixed crop-livestock systems
- Genetic resource substitution
- Biased policies for enhanced productivity

# Implications for animal genetic resources

Range and speed of changes mean that livestock production systems and livestock breeds no longer co-evolving

Loss of diversity

New policy framework and interventions strategies required to better manage animal genetic resources at risk

# Policy issues and challenges

- Poor farmers need for change to secure their livelihoods **vs.** keeping local breeds
  - Farmers are changing the genotype of their livestock assets
  - Is it fair to ask farmers to maintain public goods embedded in AnGR and to forego productivity gains and income?
  
- Feasibility of in situ conservation?
  - Demand for improved productivity frequently incompatible with diversity conservation
  - In situ conservation unlikely to save most diversity

# Policy issues and challenges

- Provide farmers with incentives for keeping local breeds
  - Remove market distortions and change policies that give priority to exotic breeds in development programs
  - Increased productivity of local breeds (improved management systems and genetic improvement programs)
  - Improve access to markets and value addition
  - Improve understanding of the incentive systems through economic evaluation of local breeds as support to policy formulation and management decisions

# Policy issues and challenges

- Develop policies that safeguard genetic interdependence between countries
- Consider biodiversity losses when controlling livestock disease epidemics and when restocking after disaster

# What are the priorities

- Understanding the match between livestock population, breeds, and genes with the physical, biological and economic landscape.
- Public investment for banking germplasm as long-term insurance against losses with comprehensive description of phenotypes, populations and environments of origin
  - Challenges: Which genetic resources to conserve, how to collect, where to store, who can access, use and benefit?

# Funding mechanisms

PROGEBE Model: Powerful partnership and institutional arrangements between :

- A set of countries with common interest and priority targeted investments
- A development bank (AfDB) securing resources for investments
- A research/conservation component funded by GEF implemented by ILRI

Highest priority to Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources – Funding Strategy incl. FAO Trust Account

Resource mobilization: development banks, NGO, foundations, private sector

Mainstreaming sustainable use and conservation of breeds in RECs Regional Agricultural Investment Programs (PRIA) and Country PNIAs

# Concluding remarks

The sustainable use and conservation of African AnGR are profoundly political, developmental and environmental issues.

Many of the central policy questions remain unanswered despite significant advances in technology and knowledge.

Time to use existing knowledge and mobilize resources to turn plans and awareness into action for sustainable use of African breeds and to safeguard African AnGR for farmer adaptive capacity in an uncertain future.

# Thank you for your attention

