

Department of Livestock Identification, Registration and Traceability (LIRTRA)



Avoid undue tress to animals during transportation

Livestock Identification (Murito Kibaso-Mara 2006)



Vision

The Department of Livestock Identification, Registration and Traceability aspires to see Tanzania being reckoned as the source of high quality livestock and livestock products in the region and the world by the year 2025 through a properly instituted, practical, acceptable, cost effective and implementable Livestock Identification, Registration and Traceability System.

The overall goal is for the Livestock Identification, Registration and Traceability System to contribute towards the achievement of the Livestock Sector Vision 2025 of having a commercially oriented and environmentally sustainable livestock sector that significantly contributes to the national income, food security and improved livelihood of livestock dependent communities by the year 2025. Livestock and other animals are humanely handled throughout their user chain (food, sports, science and draught power)

Mission of the Department of Livestock Identification, Registration and Traceability

- To ensure acceptable, cost effective, practical and sustainable Livestock Identification and Registration Practices are developed, adopted and implemented throughout the country in phases starting with major classes of livestock and commercially oriented livestock production enterprises
- To ensure skills and knowledge in livestock identification and registration are developed and move in accordance with the rapid technological changes
- To ensure livestock identification and registration fosters breeding programmes improvement and management through coordinating and encouraging modern breeding technologies (Artificial Insemination –AI and Multiple Ovulation Embryo Transfer –MOET) and breeders associations.
- To ensure livestock identification and registration fosters traceability of livestock and livestock products from stable to the table and enhances livestock movement control for all purposes of disease control, property safety and data source.
- To ensure livestock and other animals are humanely handled throughout their user chain in compliance with the OIE Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines

Motto

- Livestock Identification ,Registration and Traceability System is a necessity in modern livestock production and marketing

- Genetic Resources must be conserved as biodiversity necessities instead of being made extinct through Breed Improvement Programmes
- Improvements in Animal Welfare improves livestock productivity, animal health, food safety and hence leading to increased economic benefits

Core Values

- Professionalism
- Abhor Corrupt Practices
- Consensus & Acceptance Seeking
- Avoid conflicting with engrained social values & beliefs
- Treatment of Farm Animals with compassion and respect

Situation analysis of livestock identification, registration (herd registry) and traceability system in Tanzania

Livestock Identification

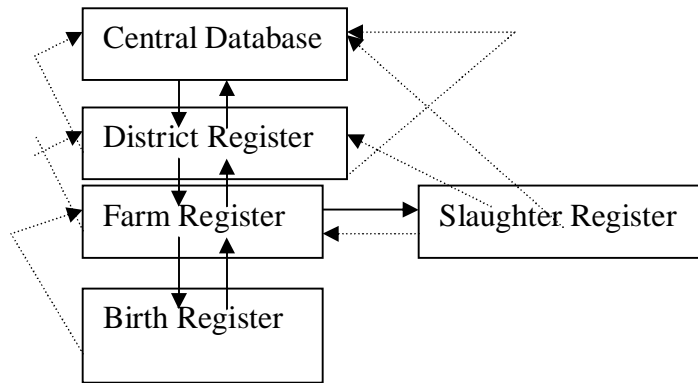
In many livestock communities in Tanzania, animals are identified through several ways: by name, shape of horns, size, morphology, colour, ear notching, behaviour and symbols as skin brands. Choosing a brand location is mitigated by visibility and the imparted skin damage. In some circumstances (specialised farms and for specific purposes) animals are identified by special number/or tag or special marker like tattoos collar tags and as homogenous groups. The set back of these procedures are the difficulties to trace and monitor as the herd grow and expand. Secondly, the existence of similar name/colour of animal per village (a village assumed to be one cluster) may render identification of animal difficult. Apart from the traditional cattle keeping system (animal identified by marks, colour, notching, name) and few specialized farming system (dairy) there are few if any, livestock keeper identifying their animals through the use of ear tags. The advantage of animal identification through ear tags is the reliability of monitoring of animals during disease outbreaks and animal movement (due to various reason including searching for pasture, rustling, trade). The reason for low usage rate could probably due to high costs of ear tags, persistency loss of ear tags due to wear and tear, lack of incentives (value attached to identification and registration initiatives), lack of clear policy/ guidance on animal identification in Tanzania and the general lack of ear tags and awareness amongst farming communities. Of late genetic identification technology is proving to be a powerful tool of authenticating and controlling this conventional animal identification system i.e. tagging, branding etc.

Livestock Registration (Herd Registry) System

To allow complete traceability of animals an ideal registration system should be able to supply at least the following: the list of all animals present in a herd/ flock; the dates and the list of all movement- changes of herd/ flock – of each animal from birth to death/slaughter; the interaction between key players (farmers level, village, ward, district, National / or International level). The basic requirements for tracing are the registration of all livestock herds in the country. The history of cattle registry in Tanzania goes back to the early 70's, where the Central Registry was established for the first time in and settled in Mpwapwa, Dodoma. The purpose of herd registry was primarily related to breeding schemes and partly health programmes. After the collapse of Mpwapwa based herd registry, due to the funding problems, there is little effort that has been made to revive or improvise on livestock identification activity. A simple farm register model should indicate animal bio-data (sex, date of birth, breed, and history of illness, death, movement on and off the farm).

Registry Model:

"Movement on" ↑
 "Movement off" ↓
 "Identity document" →



Challenges and Way forward

The main consideration for a National Livestock Identification, Registration and Traceability System should focus on cost of application, degree of permanence and legibility. Importantly, the animal identification system should address animal welfare, safe and wholesome product to domestic and export consumers, quality assurance and improvements in animal production efficiency.

A sound identification system requires maintenance of a large database-, which should be able to trace and retrieve individual animals to the herd of origin. In addition such systems requires being open and reliable. An open system should enable interested parties to access information records as well as meet the needs of the government in terms of record keeping and reliability.

Before embarking on animal identification and registration systems, few question are required to be addressed and explicitly known to farmers and veterinary department personnel (Extension Officers, Policy makers)

- (i) Can animal's identification system be voluntary or Mandatory?
- (ii) How is the system going to be maintained and be operational (administrative ownership, institutional arrangements, support – financial, technical assistance, coordinated)?

These questions might not have an immediate answers or solution due to the heavy groundwork required, however, there is a need to have a starting point!

The Directorate of Livestock Identification, Registration and Traceability seek to address these challenges and establish a sustainable, operational, acceptable, practical and affordable National Livestock Identification, Registration and Traceability System in Tanzania.

LITRA Team

Director



Dr.Mohammed Msigara Bahari
 Acting Director-LITRA
 Tel + 255 22 2866452
 Fax +255 22 2862538

Units and Experts

Identification and Registration

- Central Livestock Registry (CENTRAL REGISTRY DATA BASE)
- Livestock Identification System Development & Application

Animal Breeding Expert

Livestock & Livestock Products Traceability Expert

Animal Welfare Expert

LITRA BASIC INSTRUMENTS

Livestock Identification Devices Manufacturers

Livestock Identification Devices Importers & Whole Sellers

Livestock Identification Devices Retail Sellers

Livestock Identification Lead Experts in the Country

Livestock Breeding Farms

Grand Parent Farms

Artificial Insemination Centres

- National Artificial Insemination Centre (NAIC)-Arusha
- Regional Artificial Insemination Centres –None so far but plans are underway to establish small AI Centres to cater for major ecological/geographical zones

Artificial Insemination Officers

Animal Welfare Societies/Clubs

- TASPCA
- Regional TASPCA Officers
- District TASPCA Officers

- WAWS-Country Office Policy

(a) Livestock Identification, Registration and Traceability

Considering the need to increase commercial oriented production, processing and consumption of quality meat to meet standards for the domestic and external markets, raise income of livestock farmers and improve their living standards.

Adhering to ensuring the movement of livestock and livestock products are regulated for the purpose of preventing the spread of animal diseases.

- Procedure, laws and regulations governing the movement of livestock and livestock products within and from outside the country shall be regulated and enforced.
- Livestock identification, registration and traceability for safe and quality livestock and livestock products production, marketing and consumption will be instituted.

(b) Livestock Breeding

Good quality seed is an important input for increased livestock productivity. Livestock farmers have been aware that some individuals and families of animals possess desired characteristics, good mothering ability, produce progeny which grow fast or have high body weights. In case of Maasai, there is a traditional of preventing uncontrolled mating by use of ram apron. These traditions if combined with modern animal breeding techniques will results into more productive livestock. The national herd is characterised by animals having low production coefficients is a result of inbreeding.

A dual purpose Mpwapwa cattle breed, which is well adapted to the medium attitude climate, Tanzania has developed. However, un-sustained breeding and multiplication efforts almost led to the disappearance of the breed. Efforts to multiply the breed should be supported.

Genetic improvement of these animals can result in small but cumulative increase in the efficiency of animal production. This potential for expression of small changes in traits such as milk yield, growth rate, eggs or meat output in millions of animals is what makes generic improvement one of the most powerful and cheapest means of increasing the efficiency of animal production.

Conservation of biological diversity is one of the agreements made in the United Nations Conference on Environmental Development UNCED, 1992) held in Rio de Janeiro encouraging each member state to conserve and improve genetic resources found within its boundaries.

Tanzania does not have a progeny-testing scheme for providing pedigree animals for livestock production and lacks a National Livestock Registry that would coordinate livestock recording in the country for matching interest of sellers and buyers of breeding materials. There is also little knowledge of modern breeding technologies such as Multiple Ovulation and Embryo Transfer (MOET), information on the pedigree performance of the imported exotic breeds and inadequate extension services particularly on Artificial Insemination Service for improvement of the indigenous animal genetic resources base have been lacking.

Other constraints include lack of livestock breeding strategies and programmes, Livestock Breeders Associations and breed Societies and institutional and legal frameworks for trade in animal genetic materials.

Livestock Breeding Policy Objective

To enhance livestock productivity through sustainable breeding programme

Policy Statements

- (i) Livestock breeds inventory, characterisation, evaluation and selection will be promoted
- (ii) National Livestock Registry and National Stud Book to coordinate livestock recording in the country will be established.
- (iii) The use of Artificial Insemination including the use of room temperature semen to improve the genetic potential of livestock will be promoted.
- (iv) Import and export of animal genetic materials shall be monitored and regulated.
- (v) Breeding and management systems for conservation and sustainable improvement of the indigenous animal genetic resources and protection of endangered animal species will be promoted.
- (vi) Focused research and technological development capacity will be strengthened to address constraints in production of quality animals.
- (vii) A system will be established for recognition of intellectual property rights on discoveries made by animal scientists or individual rights in the conservation of biological diversity.
- (viii) Formation of Breeders Association, Clubs and Breed Societies for sustainable conservation and breeding will be promoted.
- (ix) Crossbreeding and selection of indigenous stock will be encouraged.



Animal Welfare Policy

There is a global concern in standards and principles governing the handling of different animal species that are used in agriculture and aquaculture during transportation by sea, land and air, stamping out for disease control and humane slaughter.

In Tanzania there is insufficient awareness among animal owners on the animal welfare issues. The Tanzania Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (TSPCA) and legislation on the protection of animals exist but they are weak and lack enforcement. Also there exist socio-cultural limitations towards animal welfare among the communities.

The OIE mission is to provide international leadership in animal welfare through the development of science based standards and guidelines, the provision of expert advice and the promotion of relevant education and research. In view of this new mandate the OIE has developed Animal Welfare Standards under Chapter 3.7 of the Terrestrial Code in the form of guidelines

Humane handling and keeping of animals for various uses such as laboratory testing, sports and recreation need to be observed, maintained and kept at the acceptable standards. The existing legislation in the country is largely implemented by the private sector does not provide for the coordination of stakeholders by Government machinery. The situation complicates follow-up, monitoring and reporting of animal welfare issues nationally and internationally. Regulated animal welfare is a pre-requisite in global marketing of livestock and livestock products.

Policy Objectives

To ensure that all stakeholders address all animal welfare issues to meet domestic and international standards.

Animal Welfare Policy Statements

- (i) The Government shall review legislation to accommodate the current national and global needs for animal welfare.
- (ii) Coordination of stakeholders dealing with animal welfare issues at all levels will be encouraged and promoted.
- (iii) Improvement of training curricula to address animal welfare and cultural issues will be undertaken in schools and technical institutions.
- (iv) Regulation to ensure humane keeping, handling, marketing, transportation and slaughtering of animals will be enforced.

Strategic Objectives and Targets 2006/07 (Mid Term Expenditure Framework)

Programmes and Projects

- National Programmes
- Regional & District Programmes