



VANUATU NATIONAL LIVESTOCK POLICY 2015 - 2030 “YUMI GO”



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FISHERIES DEPARTMENT
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EXECUTIVE ENDORSEMENT

The livestock sector remains a major contributor to the cultural and socio-economical livelihood of Vanuatu. The importance placed on livestock means the sector must be guided by practical development roadmaps and backed by sound policies. The National Livestock Policy recognises the efforts of all stakeholders and sets the platform to guide the whole livestock sector develop in a coherent manner. Noting current efforts the Policy also recognises the potential of the sector to become a major contributor to food security and the national economy and it encourages the sector to achieve its full potential possible in the fifteen years when the Policy is in force.

As Minister responsible for Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity (MALFFB) and on behalf of the Government of Vanuatu it is my utmost pleasure to introduce the National Livestock Policy to the livestock farmers, our development partners and other stakeholders. It is the desire of the Government of Vanuatu to see the Policy provides guidance for Ni-Vanuatu farmers and investors to gain wealth and to raise their standards of living from livestock activities. The greater focus on smaller livestock and smallholder farmers is intentional to revive livestock farming at the village level and our small scale farming are elevated from their subsistence status to semi-commercial or fully-fledged commercial farming.

I am confident that the National Livestock Policy 2015 - 2030, together with the Action Plan and Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and other provincial initiatives would help to accelerate the overall growth of the livestock sector in a sustainable manner and improve the livelihood of thousands of livestock farmers in Vanuatu.

The Vanuatu Government, through the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity hereby endorse the Vanuatu National Livestock Policy and the National Livestock Policy Action Plan and Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.

Hon. Christophe Hogtermon EMELEE (MP)

Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of

Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity





FOREWORD

This document is a result of extensive consultations among stakeholders. Meetings and workshops were convened in all six Provinces to collect the information to develop the National Livestock Policy (NLP). The Policy addresses the challenges and shortcomings which livestock farmers and policy makers have struggled with since the country became independent over 35 years ago. The NLP is consistent with current government development policies, namely the Overarching Productive Sector Policy (OPSP) and the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) developed of the Government of Vanuatu. It covers a wide range of issues within the livestock sub-sectors including smallholder farming, product hygiene, women and vulnerable groups.

The NLP covers key issues relating to: farm animal genetic resources, livestock nutrition, feeds, farm inputs, animal diseases and pests, livestock marketing, food safety, quality assurance, research, extension and food security. We acknowledge that over 90% of Vanuatu's land area is under customary or indigenous land ownership and that livestock is an integral activity for subsistence living in rural areas and contributing to food security and income generation for families and communities. Livestock farming brings in significant foreign exchange earnings from exported beef meat and other products.

This Policy framework recognizes the major stakeholders in the livestock sector and it defines their respective roles. It also recognizes the impact of livestock activities on the environment and the availability of other natural resources such as land, water, and wildlife/livestock interaction on livestock production.

The policy take cognizance of the difficulties of developing this sector due to the geographical spread of the islands and the meagre resources allocated to the sector to develop it into a vibrant and industry.

Amongst other issues the Department of Livestock took pride in declaring that this Policy is a milestone to reshape this sector. This Policy recognizes the difficulties the policy team faced to collect everyone's opinion, comments, analyse them and assemble these into these two documents - the National Livestock Policy and the National Livestock Policy Action Plan, Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.

The Policy take cognizance of the potential contribution the sector can contribute to the country's gross domestic product. It is our expectation that the Policy aspirations envisaged here will revitalize the livestock sector and guarantee the sustainability of livestock farming as a major economic activity in the country and enhance Vanuatu's position in livestock production within the Pacific region and beyond.



The Policy would not have been realised without the dedication of the Policy team. The team travelled the length and breadth of the country on boats, planes and trucks to gather everyone's thoughts and ideas. The navigational difficulties included nerve racking air taxis rides, mosquito and fire ants infested lodgings. Thank you to the livestock farmers, representatives from the private sector and donor partners, officials from key Ministries and Government Departments, Provincial Government officials, and other stakeholders who took time to offer their thoughts and ideas which have form this document. The Department commends the efforts of the two local consultants who have put together the National Livestock Policy and the National Livestock Policy Action Plan, Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. Last but not least, a BIGFALA *Tankio Tumas* to the Vanuatu Government through Departments of Livestock and Fisheries, GIZ project, and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community for funding this work.

Lonny Jonah BONG, Director
Department of Livestock





INTRODUCTION

The livestock sector is a major contributor to food security and an essential component of livelihood for a vast majority of the people of the Republic of Vanuatu. The sector plays an important role in local cultures and the economic development of our island nation. However, despite perceptions of self-sufficiency a greater part of the population is not consuming enough meat to meet the recommended animal protein requirements set by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The majority of smallholder livestock farmers remain poor and food insecure because of low productivity, high cost of farm inputs and market inefficiencies. Limited land areas are preventing the development of expansive farming. Vanuatu is yet to realize its full potential in the livestock sector. To realise the full potential the sector must be guided by strong policies to guide and create a conducive environment which farmers can work in to raise their animals.

The sector has the potential to improve Vanuatu farmers' welfare status and to achieve the development objectives of the Government outlined in the Priorities and Action Agenda (PAA) 2006 – 2015, the Planning Long Acting Short, and the Overarching Productive Sector Policy (OPSP) 2012 - 2017.

Various reforms in the livestock sector were initiated to stimulate economic growth and to achieve food security but most have not created sustained impact and benefit due in a large part to the lack of a long-term policy framework and support.

A thorough elucidation of the 'way forward' is presented in the National Livestock Policy Action Plan, Monitoring and Evaluation Framework; it is made up of a series of policy directives, implementation strategies and evaluation mechanisms to address Vanuatu's livestock development challenges in a coherent and strategic manner. It is expected that this Policy framework will guide the development of the livestock sector to increase household incomes, assure food security, create employment, improve farming practices, enable environmental sustainability and adaptation to climate change and support other livestock-based commercial industries.



A farmer on Epi feeding his goats (2015)



Vision

Conscious of its past performances the vision of the Livestock Sector states that;

“The livestock sector is modern, sustainably managed to benefit all its stakeholders, contribute to greater socio-economic development, and in its endeavours ensures sound environmental and climate proofing practices, including, achieving a national cattle herd of 500,000 heads by year 2025”.



Government farm at Tagabe, Efate (2015)

Mission

The mission of the livestock sector is:

“To provide the enabling policy environment and recognises latest technologies and knowledge that increases overall productivity of Vanuatu’s Livestock sector and protects it from diverse risks by ensuring that critical services and products are provided equitably to the people of Vanuatu through collaborative arrangements among multiple sectors”.



Raising Chicken on Efate (2015)



List of Abbreviations

CBO	Community Based Organization
DARD	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
DLiv	Department of Livestock
DSPPAC	Department of Strategic Policy, Planning and Aid Coordination
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FSA	Farm Support Association
FSAC	Food Security and Agriculture Cluster
GoV	Government of Vanuatu
MALFFB	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity
MoCCA	Ministry of Climate Change and Adaptation
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoFEM	Ministry of Finance and Economic Management
MTTCNVB	Ministry of Trade, Tourism, Cooperatives and Ni-Vanuatu Business
NARI	National Agricultural Research Institute
NBV	National Bank of Vanuatu
NDMO	National Disaster Management Office
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NIP	National Implementation Plan
NLB	National Livestock Board
NLP	National Livestock Policy
OGCIO	Office of the Government Chief Information Officer
OPSP	Overarching Productive Sector Policy
PAA	Priority Action Agenda (2006 – 2015)
PGC	Provincial Government Council
PSC	Public Service Commission
RRU	Risk Resilience Unit
SLO	State Law Office
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
VAB	Vanuatu Agriculture Bank
VAC	Vanuatu Agriculture College
VARTC	Vanuatu Agricultural Research and Training Centre
VIPA	Vanuatu Investment Promotion Authority
VKS	Vanuatu Kaljoral Senta
VLAB	Vanuatu Livestock Advisory Board
VNSO	Vanuatu National Statistics Office
VQA	Vanuatu Qualification Authority
WAP	World Animal Protection



Legal Status of the National Livestock Policy

(a) Legal Framework

The National Livestock Policy (NLP) is critical for the development of livestock industry. The NLP provides the policy directions under which the National Livestock Policy Action Plan, Monitoring and Evaluation Framework is derived where specific actions are developed and implemented. Additional to the NLP are several Acts of Parliament which lend specific legal mandate to guide the livestock sector. The enforcement of established regulations, standards, and rules is dependent on the laws and regulations. Some of these laws are outdated and sometimes overlapping in certain facets of law, resulting in costly institutional and management arrangements.

Other facets of policies important to the livestock sector development include the Priorities and Action Agenda: 2006 -2015 (PAA) and the Overarching Productive Sector Policy (OPSP). These policies set the platforms and set the scope under which a national livestock policy is constructed and implemented.

The whole of government mechanisms and self-governing organizations, national and multi-national institutions, NGOs, community based organizations (CBOs), and persons who are working in Vanuatu to manage, develop, promote and conserve livestock resources, are in the import-export or other business related to all livestock activities must conduct their activities within the ambit of the 16 Objectives and Strategies outlined in the National Livestock Policy and the National Livestock Policy Action Plan, Monitoring and Evaluation Framework .

Eventually the government will develop a national livestock legislation to harmonize all aspects of laws to facilitate the development and improvements in the sector.

(b) Institutional arrangements

A distinct delineation of functions exists where animal production, transportation, animal welfare and product safety monitoring functions are under the jurisdictions of the private sector and Department of Livestock (DLiv). Secondary and tertiary activities such as processing, value-addition and marketing fall in the scope of work of processors/private sector and other government institutions such as Department of Industry. This is to be further emphasized in the proposed national livestock legislation.

(c) Stakeholders Roles

The objectives of the National Livestock Policy will be achieved through the active participation of various stakeholders including the government, the private sector, and the civil society organizations. This document recognizes other sectoral policies as these are also important to achieve the overall objectives of the NLP. A mechanism will be instituted during implementation of this policy to facilitate linkages and complementarities between different sector policies and to coordinate the work of different stakeholders that are keen to participate in the development of the livestock sector.



(i) **Provincial Government Councils**

In accordance with Decentralization Act [1994] of the national government and its ensuing policies, and the Provincial Government Councils (PGCs) will play an increasingly important role in the implementation of the National Livestock Policy Action Plan, Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. Following the revised roles of the central government institutions, livestock extension staffs are being assigned to posts in provincial areas and headquarters in order to increase service efficiency, effectiveness and accountability.

(ii) **Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity**

The MALFFB will provide oversight on the policies and laws to ensure they are effectively implemented. It will have regular communication and dialogue with DLiv to progress reviews of the policy and assist to encourage investment in the livestock sector through the Cabinet and the office of the Director General of the Ministry.

(iii) **Lines Departments**

Line agencies in charge of other sectoral policies have a role to play to ensure that their activities are consistent and compliment the work under the NLP.

(iv) **National Livestock Board**

The Meat Industry Act will be amended to delete the Vanuatu Livestock Advisory Board (VLAB) and replace with the National Livestock Board (NLB). The NLB will be formally constituted to work alongside the DLiv to implement the policies.

(v) **Private sector organizations, NGOs, community based organizations (CBOs), civil society**

The role played by private sector organizations, NGOs, community based organizations (CBOs) and civil society is crucial for the development of the livestock sector. The enabling environment for their roles are provided for under the NPL so their efforts are aimed at achieving the 16 objectives of the Policy.

(vi) **Academia**

The government must engage academia to ensure there is continuity in the development of the livestock sector. The school curriculum must include topics on livestock farming and management to generate student interest in the sector.



(vii) **Research and development**

It is crucial that research and development in livestock genetic improvement, nutrition and health are undertaken to improve on current practices. Research is crucial to devise best animal management methodologies which are suitable to our local conditions. Applied research is essential to conserve traditional genetic materials and practices.

Scope of the NLP

The NLP has been developed by the Department of Livestock within the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity (MALFFB). The scope of this Policy however is much greater than a document for Government alone. The NLP is intended to be a sector wide strategic guiding document which will be implemented by government, the private sector, civil society, academia, regional organizations and others. The NLP embraces an integrated approach to the development of the livestock sector which recognises the contribution all stakeholders and development partners. It is intended to empower and mobilise stakeholders to achieve a common purpose or mission.

The NLP is based on a vision and mission shared across the whole livestock sector. The policy is structured as a series of Policy Directives and Implementation Strategies that are organized into Thematic Areas. The NLP acknowledges the limited capacity available for the development of the livestock sector and so strategies are prioritised. The policy acknowledges also the likely reality that some priorities will change over time.

The directives and strategies are not carved in stone. Rather, they are developed with the intent to provide a national development framework within which stakeholders can work together to improve livestock planning and development.

This National Livestock Policy will be valid from 2015-2030 and coincides with the time period of Vanuatu's new Sustainable Development Goals. Far from being inflexibly codified for that entire duration, the policy directives contained within the Policy are intended to be regularly reviewed and improved to suit changing contexts. In essence, this Policy is a living document and will be reviewed every five (5) years from the date of its launch.

Main Livestock Sector Issues and Constraints

The livestock sector in Vanuatu faces the following major challenges which need to be addressed to enable the sector to grow according to its potential:

1. There is lack of knowledge and skills on breeding methods and management of genetic diversity (e.g. inbreeding and stock reproductive ratios), livestock production outputs and reduced reproductive efficiency;



2. There are few improved breeds which give rise to many farmers not having good breeds and are achieving sub-optimal growth, small litter sizes and reduced production. The current improved breeds are found on the islands of Efate and Santo. Farmers on other islands must pay a huge price for these improved stocks and the transport to have the animals moved to their islands each time they want to introduce new genetics or breeds onto their farm;
3. Vanuatu lacks expertise in feed formulation which currently contributes to under nourishment, malnutrition and poor production. The desire is to develop desired feed compositions using local food products and ingredients;
4. Shortage of land and other farming resources often result in disputes which limit the commercialization of many livestock species;
5. The inability of farmers or extension officers to identify, prevent and/or control common diseases which cause high mortality and reduce productivity;
6. High wharfage and storage fees for imported animal feeds and equipment and handling fees for imports and exports by Ifira Stevedoring Limited and Northern Islands Stevedoring Company Limited;
7. The demand for Vanuatu livestock products outstrips supply both in the local and external markets;
8. There is no recognised guideline on product prices and this gives rise to high variability in livestock products prices in local regions and islands;
9. Producers lack appropriate marketing knowledge and skills which contribute to low economic returns;
10. Farmers on outer islands do not have the essential information and knowledge to make decision on best farming practices;
11. Extension, awareness and communication strategies are poor and not effectively utilising existing bodies, the industry, VARTC, VAC etc;



12. Farmers do not have good business plans to conduct livestock farming as a business;
13. Farmers lack investment capital to start or improve their farming operations. The current lending rates are prohibitive to growth in the livestock sector;
14. Farmers do not have sufficient knowledge or skills on breeds, farming systems or other adaptation methods to cope with the negative impacts of climate change;
15. Farmers do not have sufficient knowledge on pasture establishment and management (including weed management), most do not have access to improved pasture species; and
16. There is a lack of coordination among stakeholders in the livestock sector which leads to duplication of efforts by service providers and other industry players.

Guiding Principles

To be successful the National Livestock Policy will:

1. Be linked to and be based upon expanded extension services (both government and farmer associations) firmly rooted in provincial and island centres.
2. Embrace complementary strategies such that the NLP is linked to, supported by and complements other sector policy initiatives
3. Embrace participation and collaboration such that the NLP is implemented through the active, responsible and committed contribution of all stakeholders
4. Embrace integration such that the livestock development goals contained herein are supported by and support the achievement of broader sustainable development aspirations.
5. Ensure good governance such that the implementation of the NLP is steered by a transparent and credible authority (e.g. Livestock Advisory Board)



LC Mahalia laden with cattle for Pentecost (2015)

6. Promote 'No Regrets Development' such that NLP directives and strategies will not contribute to further climate change impacts or environmental degradation but rather facilitate adaptation, risk reduction and environmental integrity.
7. Enable inclusiveness such that the diverse needs of different stakeholders in Vanuatu (women, men, youth, people with special abilities, rural etc.) all have fair and equitable access to the development outcomes that the livestock sector can create.



LC Kaliara offloading cattle at Lolowai, Ambae (2015)



Thematic Areas and Policies

1 Smallholder Livestock Production

In the late 1980s to mid-1990s approximately 50 – 60 percent of cattle throughput at the two abattoirs in Luganville and Port Vila were sourced from the smallholder farmers. In 2015 the number of smallholder livestock farmers supplying the abattoirs have decreased to below 10 percent of the figures of the late 1990s. The smallholder livestock production is the main provider of meat protein to the informal sector for cultural, religious and other community-based activities. The current national cattle restocking program has triggered renewed interest in cattle raising on smallholder farms. There is huge opportunity for development of small-scale farming for both cattle and smaller livestock.

In order to recapture a greater share of the formal market sector and to increase benefits of livestock farming to smallholder farmers the sub-sector will promote and create incentives to attract more people into livestock farming. The industry must develop a sound policy platform to develop the sector, bring in new genetic materials to improve its national herds and pursue the national livestock restocking program to increase animal numbers at the smallholder farms level.





2 Commercial Livestock Production

The commercial livestock production has been the mainstay of meat protein provider to Vanuatu and export markets. The local beef meat is highly valued for its taste and quality and is ranked at number one on these criteria in the Pacific Region. The commercial cattle meat export brings into Vanuatu approximately VT450 million in foreign exchange. The commercial livestock sector is constrained by lack of farm land, lack of properly managed land leases and ambiguous incentives schemes set up by Government.

In order to improve the commercial livestock sector requires greater cooperation from the government and land owners. The government will encourage the sector to assist smallholder livestock farmers to develop and improve their farming systems through joint partnership with other farmers and to explore other development schemes.



3 Livestock Industries and Marketing

There is a huge demand for livestock and livestock products locally and from external markets. However, to get a premium price for its premium products Vanuatu must place greater emphasis on finding higher value markets and niche markets that are willing to pay more for Vanuatu products. This is only possible if Vanuatu's meat processing systems are of the highest standards.

To help resolve this issue, the government, the processing facilities and marketing sector must agree



to amend laws to improve processing facilities, provide resources to find niche markets and explore farming systems such as organic farming and free range farming that could bring in more returns for livestock products.

4 Livestock Genetic Resources

Livestock genetic resources are inadequately and ineffectively managed and utilized because of incomplete inventory, characterization, documentation and conservation. There are no established nucleus herds of improved breeds and species for breeding, characterization, conservation and utilization. Many animal improvement programmes in the past have concentrated on upgrading of local animals towards the exotic breeds. This has been done in an ad-hoc manner and there is no national records of breeding and animal characterization which can be used to determine future breeding programs in the country.

In this regard, efforts will be made to improve existing breeding programmes through collaboration with relevant stakeholders. The government will promote the use of recognized experts to formulate superior breeding programmes and to train local officials and farmers on improved breeding methods. The government will also establish sound animal conservation policies to ensure the current national genetic materials are properly maintained.



Duck for sale, Marobe market, Efate (2015)



5 Animal Health and Public Health

Many Vanuatu farmers are oblivious to the fact that maintaining proper animal welfare and animal health will produce greater returns. Better managed animal welfare and health also leads to improved protection of consumer health.

The government and stakeholders have a critical role in developing sound policies that address animal welfare and health issues, aggressively promote this message to farmers. The message to convey must show that consumer health is at risk if farmers and meat processors mistreat their animals and/or when proper handling practices are not followed.

6 Land Use

Land remains a very contentious issue if the livestock industry should develop further. The Vanuatu land ownership or tenure is not conducive to farming business growth, namely large plantation livestock farming. Families and farmers left to manage alienated lands have performed abysmally due to lack of commercial farming expertise and managing farming activities as a business. Noxious weeds have established on previously farmed areas and are hard to manage.

To remedy the situations, the government and land owners must register their lands and be prepared to work with investors to develop their lands. Landowners are also encouraged to seek proper training from the Department of Livestock and other government institutions to become better farm managers so they can farm their lands.

7 Livestock Feed, Water and Nutrition

Livestock feeds in Vanuatu account for between 60-80 percent of the production costs in livestock farming, depending on the intensity of production. The main livestock feeds consist of roughages, concentrates, minerals and vitamins. The greatest proportion of diet for ruminants is roughages that include grass and legumes.

However, in most islands of Vanuatu, where livestock farming is practiced, there is no supplementation with concentrates and minerals. In peri-urban and urban areas, concentrates make a significant proportion of smaller livestock diet. In these areas local feed production is at the experimental stages to produce feeds that will supplement imported feeds and surplus household food garden products and which are fed to non-grazing animals (pigs, chicken, etc).

Water is an essential element in animal diet. All farmers must have access to at least one good source of water to provide to his/her animals.

In this regard, and in order to cope with both short-term and long-term needs for animal feeds, the government will promote diversification of the feed base through the use of local ingredients in



alternative sources of both energy and protein. The government will ensure farmers have enough potable water to supply to their animals.

8 Environment, Climate Change & Disaster Risk Management

We witness all too often animals become the victim of environmental disaster and adverse climatic conditions. On the contrary, animals will create undue environmental disasters when they are not managed properly. The livestock sector must recognise the fragile ecosystems that exist on all our islands and all stakeholders must conduct animal farming activities that contribute to maintaining a good environmental integrity.

To maintain a good balance between livestock farming and effective environmental management, the government and other stakeholders inform farmers about the negative impacts of animals on the environment when they are not managed properly. Farmers need to know the value of losses they will incur when the environment cannot sustain high stocking rates and the improper dumping of animal waste in the environment. Farmers must also be well informed in disaster risk reduction and mitigation measures they would employ when disasters such as cyclones or El Ninos strike our islands.

9 Finance & Planning

One of the key factors affecting livestock production has been the non-availability of capital for the operations of livestock producers and traders. The group most affected by this limitation is the smallholder livestock producers and traders. Currently, the smallholder livestock farmers are resource poor with no collateral to offer and, therefore, cannot afford the cost of credit from most conventional financial institutions. Risks associated with livestock farming, coupled with complicated land tenure systems, limit the use of land as collateral and, hence, make financing by such institutions unattractive. The cost of securing a loan is the highest in the Pacific region and it discourages farmers to borrow and is indirectly contributing to poor farm performance and management. Mechanisms for providing affordable credit to both smallholder and large-scale livestock farmers, therefore, need to be established in order to foster more development in the livestock industry.

In this regard, the government will develop mechanisms of extending affordable credit facilities to both smallholder and large-scale livestock farmers through the revitalization of the existing public institutions, including the Vanuatu Agriculture Bank (VAB). The government will also encourage the private sector, the cooperative societies, farmer groups, the NGOs and the CBOs to advance more credit to livestock farmers. In addition, the government will establish other institutional frameworks which may be necessary for facilitating credit provision specifically to livestock farmers and other players within the agricultural sector in general. Micro-finances institutions such as Vanuatu National Provident Fund (VNPF) may be utilized to support funding of the livestock sub sector.



10 Institutional Setup & Governance

The livestock sector is poorly organised and is not benefitting fully from assistance provided by development partners and the government. The sector needs also to be well organised to assist its members and the government develop sound policies to manage the sector.

In order to address these shortcomings, both the government and the livestock stakeholder will meet to develop proper and effective coordinating mechanisms to develop and improve the sector. The government will establish policy that recognises the establishment of a coordinating committee that will act as the mouthpiece of the industry.

11 Communication, Extension, Awareness & Training

The content of the messages for extension service delivery are currently inadequate to address the different needs of various stakeholders within the livestock sub-sectors. This is partly caused by narrow specialization of extension agents and weak application of the prevailing extension approaches. There is, therefore, need to develop comprehensive and dynamic extension packages which respond to market demand, taking into account the client's social-economic conditions, environment, culture and other relevant cross-cutting values.

At present, there is little formal collaboration among various extension service providers which, in some cases, has led to lack of synergy, duplication of efforts and conflict of interests. Consequently, this has resulted in poor access to extension support services by the livestock farmers. There is need to devise modalities for improving collaboration and networking among the stakeholders to ensure uniformity in delivery of extension service.

To overcome these challenges, the government will collaborate with other extension service providers to develop dynamic and comprehensive extension packages. The government will also encourage investments in capacity building for extension service providers, extension clientele and relevant institutions. Further, the government will promote demand driven and beneficiary led approaches in selection of technologies and extension messages.

In recognition of the increasing role of other stakeholders in extension service provision, the government will promote pluralism in extension service delivery and institute mechanisms to coordinate extension services to ensure delivery of quality extension service. The government will further establish a harmonized institutional framework for coordination of all extension projects/programmes within the livestock sub-sector in line with the aspirations of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) Policy. In this regard, in addition to addressing various technical problems facing livestock producers, processors and marketers, the government, in collaboration with stakeholders in the livestock sub-sector, will also take measures to streamline research and extension on socio-economic factors that affect livestock production and marketing.



12 Research

Strong research and extension institutions are key for enhancing competitiveness in the livestock industry and increasing livestock productivity. Currently, most of the livestock related research and technological development in the country is funded by the private sector.

The main constraints in research service within the livestock sector include: low investment in livestock research by public and private sectors, inadequate attention to post-production research, particularly value-addition and marketing, and inadequate facilities for dissemination of the research findings.

In order to address such challenges, the government will seek ways and means to diversify the funding base and enhance financial sustainability of livestock research capacity. It will look at developing closer working relationship with regional and international research institutions which Vanuatu can benefit from their work in livestock research. Budgetary support for research at VARTC and VAC will also be enhanced in proportion to the contribution of livestock sector to the overall agricultural sector and the economy as a whole.

13 Infrastructure and Technology

The livestock industry will be enhanced if Vanuatu had appropriate infrastructural developments on islands that have the potential to develop livestock farming. The MALFFB must forge a closer working relationship with Ministry of Infrastructure and Public Utilities to identify appropriate infrastructures development for targeted high producing islands and localities and which the developments will enhance their farming activities, example, construction of improved roads, wharves, bridges, etc.

The sector must be receptive to technological changes and to adopt technologies that will improve livestock farming practices.

The government and stakeholders will constantly be looking out for new technologies that will help drive the industry to a better future.

14 Women and Vulnerable Groups

Women and other vulnerable groups are an integral part of livestock development in Vanuatu. Their contribution to the sector is witnessed at all stages of the value chain, yet public perception is skewed to giving more credit to men's efforts.

Young people perceive professional development in agriculture and livestock farming as 'dirty jobs'. This is evident with the number of graduates coming out of universities and vocational training centres annually.

Women's efforts must be better appreciated in light of what they are currently contributing to the livestock sector and how they can become more engaged in future activities. Woman have huge potentials to be the drivers in livestock farming, especially with specific livestock species. The



government and its stakeholders must develop strategies that attract more young people and other vulnerable groups into livestock farming without exploiting them.

15 Investment

The livestock sector has suffered because of past government decisions and has not achieved the desired development targets. The Department of Livestock was dismantled in 1997. Recent astute negotiations led to the reversal of the 1997 Comprehensive Reform Program decisions and to re-establish the Department of Livestock in February 2012.

To re-establish livestock farming into the mainstream development plan the Department of Livestock and its stakeholders must aggressively seek assistance to promote investment plans that will reinvigorate the livestock sector. They must explore and promote development initiatives in the provinces, promote and improve processing facilities, product processing and value addition locally, and actively embark on the 'Yia blong ol smolholda fama mo smol laefstok' in 2016.

16 Monitoring & Evaluation

The National Livestock Policy and the National Livestock Sector Policy Action Plan, Monitoring and Evaluation Framework are living documents and must be reviewed at regular intervals to ensure the sector is performing and achievement its targets.

The National Livestock Policy and the National Livestock Sector Policy Action Plan, Monitoring and Evaluation Framework documents will be the guiding principle for livestock development for the next 15, from 2015 - 2030. The government and its stakeholders will review the policy and evaluate their performances against the Implementation Matrix every 3 – 5 years. Information and data collected must be regularly reviewed and analysed to assist with future development plans.



Village chicken, Efate (2015)



Definitions

Animal disease and pest – A disease or a pest is another organism detrimental to animal health and or livestock production; alternative meanings include organisms that cause nuisance and epidemic disease associated with high mortality

Animal genetic resource – The basic blueprint of genes that give rise to visible characteristics of an animal. Genes variation give rise to the great diversity of resources which can then be selected and bred to give rise to a particular animal

Animal health – The condition and welfare of an animal, herds or flocks of food animals,

Animal product – Any extracted part of an animal that is either used for human consumption or for other uses

Animal production – The method of raising or looking after animals

Animal welfare – The act of caring for an animal

Breed and breeding – Comprise farm animal types and systems and programmes involved in reproducing and/or increasing their population for economic purposes.

Breeding system and programmes – Activities, processes and procedures involved in mating of a male and female farm animal, either by natural means or artificially to produce a planned desired outcome or offspring. It involves systematic and structured programmes to change the genetic composition of a population based on objective performance criteria.

Climate change – Refers to the changes, fluctuations and variations in climate as a result of natural process and anthropogenic activities with impacts on farm animals.

Climate proofing – climate proofing is the modification of existing and future projects so that they are resilient to impacts from climate change and/or do not contribute to increased vulnerability of the projects goals.

Commercial livestock production – Production of livestock for sale and profit, although the farmer and his family may use a small amount of what they produce. The profits are reinvested to improve the farm.

Feed composition – The makeup of or ingredients in a food or feed intended for an animal

Food safety – The science discipline that deals with handling, preparation, and storage of food in ways that prevent foodborne illness

Food security – The conditions related to the supply of food, and individuals' access to it.

Genetic diversity – The total number of genetic characteristics in the genetic makeup of a species



Improve breed – Animals that are bred and having desired or better characteristics or traits such as faster growth rates and resistance to drought as compared to the rest of the herd or flock

Inbreeding – The mating of closely related animal individuals, as cousins, sire-daughter, brother-sister

Integrated approach – A holistic consideration of all parts or sectors that work well together or in favour of a system.

Livestock feed and nutrition – Food or feed that is necessary for health and growth of animals

Livestock type – Also known as livestock species. A group of domesticated economic animals with the ability to produce fertile offspring.

Market – Place of exchanging farm animals and their products as well as activities, processes and procedures involved with the exchange of the produce or product between the producer and the buyer.

Nutrition – The process of providing or obtaining the food necessary for health and growth of animals

Pasture establishment – Putting in or planting new pasture areas

Product hygiene – The science that deals with the preservation of product health

Reproductive efficiency – Dealing with fertility and or effectiveness of reproduction capacity of animals

Smallholder farmer – The term is used interchangeably with sub-commercial sub-sector. There is currently no clear distinction between smallholder and commercial farmers. This policy sets the definition of a smallholder farmer as someone earning less than VT1 million from livestock farming and/or owning:

- a) Not more than twenty heads of cattle at one time
- b) Not more than 3 sows or owning 2 sows and a boar at one time
- c) Not more than 25 goats of mix sex at one particular time
- d) A free range or battery poultry farm

Subsistence farming or subsistence living – is self-sufficiency farming in which the farmer focuses on growing enough food to feed himself and his family

Semi-subsistence farming – the farm producing mainly for self-consumption, but also selling a certain part of the production. The main approaches to this subject are based on some criteria such as: farm size, economic size and market participation.



Policy workshop participants, Sola, Vanua Lava (2014)

