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Issue 16

Livestock in Zanzibar: What Census Data Says?

In 2007/2008 the Government of Tanzania carried out the National Sample Census of Agriculture. Reports from the census include a technical report, sub-sector reports, such as for crop, livestock and large scale farms, and regional reports, including for Zanzibar. In January 2012, the Zanzibar Livestock Sector Report was released. Specific objectives of the Census, as spelled out in the Zanzibar Livestock Sector Report, were to:

- 'Identify structural changes in the size of farm holdings, crop and livestock production, farm inputs and farm implement use, and ... determine if there are any improvements in rural infrastructure and the level of agricultural household living conditions.'
- 'Provide benchmark data on productivity, production and agricultural practices in relation to policies and interventions promoted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources and other stakeholders'
- 'Obtain data that will be used to address specific issues such as: food security, rural poverty, gender, agro-processing, marketing, service delivery, etc.'

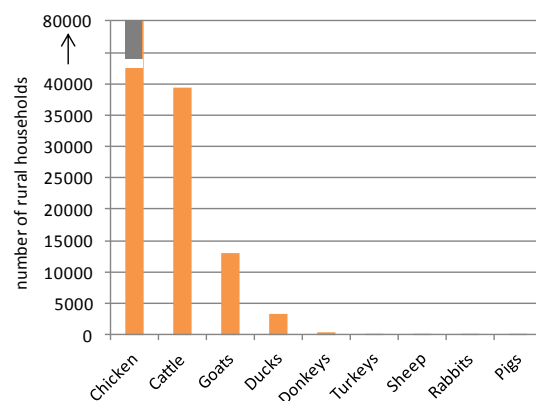
Data in Zanzibar were collected from 4,755 rural agricultural households as well as 38 large scale farms. The Census included questions on cattle, goats, sheep, pigs, chicken, ducks, turkeys, rabbits and donkeys. The Livestock Report provides summary information on livestock holdings, milk production, animal diseases and manure, which is summarized below.

Livestock holdings

In Zanzibar, an estimated 35 percent of agricultural households, i.e. about 45,700

households, keep large or small ruminants, equines or pigs. Over 50 percent of households keep poultry birds, primarily chickens. These households keep in aggregate over 1 million chickens, about 325,000 thousands ducks, 155,000 cattle and 69,000 goats. All other animals, including sheep, rabbits, turkeys and pigs are low in numbers, their total population ranging from a maximum of 3,000 to just a few hundred (donkeys).

Zanzibar: number of rural households keeping livestock by species (2007/2008)



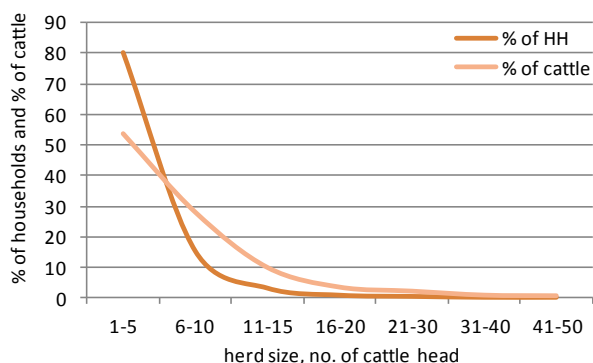
Livestock: a smallholder sector

Census data indicate that the livestock sector is dominated by smallholders. Over 80 percent of cattle keeping households rear between 1 and 5 heads of cattle, the average being 2.64 heads. In total, they own almost 54 percent of all cattle in the country. These proportions go up to 95.3 and 81.8 percent respectively, if data are presented for households rearing from one to ten heads of cattle. About 96 percent of the cattle in Zanzibar are indigenous.

The trend depicted for cattle ownership is similar for all livestock species, with the exception of improved chickens (layers) and pigs. In these categories, the majority of households keep over 300 layers and 60 pigs respectively. These are largely kept by market

oriented households located in the Urban and West Regions.

Zanzibar: cattle ownership across households by herd size (2007/2008)



Milk production and productivity

Milk production in Zanzibar comes primarily from cows. In 2007/2008, about 45,000 cows were milked in the wet season and 37,000 in the dry season. Less than 900 goats in total were milked during that period.

The average daily milk production per indigenous cow is estimated at 2.5 litres in the wet season and 2.3 litres in the dry season. Improved dairy cattle produce about 7 litres/day throughout the year. Given the more cows are milked in the wet season than are in the dry season, total production is higher in the former (111,616 lts) than in the latter (84,385 lts). Accordingly, milk price is lower? in the rainy season (481 TSh/litre in 2007/08) than in the dry season (497 TSh/litre), when the supply is less.

Animal diseases

The Agricultural Census reports information on major diseases affecting livestock in Zanzibar. The most common diseases infecting ruminant livestock are tick borne diseases, as well as foot and mouth disease and lumpy skin. Poultry birds are mostly affected by Fowl Typhoid and Newcastle disease. The latter is the most widespread disease in animals, reported by about 59 percent of households whose animals were affected by some disease, followed by tick borne diseases (33%) and lumpy skin (9%).

Only a minority of livestock-keeping households make use of methods to control animal diseases. For instance, about 66 and 75 percent of livestock keeping households reported not have practiced any tick or Newcastle control methods.

Livestock and crop productivity

Numbers for Livelihood Enhancement

While a large majority of households raise livestock, only a minority of them seem to make use of the variety of services which farm animals provide to increase crop productivity, including manure and draught power.

Data from the Census indicate that, in Zanzibar, a total of about 6,800 households, i.e. about 7.7 percent of all farmers, make use of manure during the long rain season. This manure is used to fertilize about 7.8 percent of the total land planted during the long rain season. Interestingly, there appears to be no correlation at district level between cattle population and use of manure. For example, Michweni and Wete rank second and third respectively in terms of number of cattle, but are among the lowest users of organic fertilizer.

Using agricultural census data with other data for investment purpose

The National Sample Census of Agriculture provides detailed information on the livestock sector in Zanzibar, and data can be compared with those from previous Censuses to identify trends and structural changes in the sector.

Data from the Agricultural Census are not sufficient on their own to formulate, implement, monitor and evaluate sector investments. They need to be complemented with data that allow the identification of priority areas for investments –i.e. major constraints to livestock productivity and marketing– as well as data that allow the monitoring and evaluation of sector interventions –i.e. data which are collected on a regular basis so as to observe trends in outputs and outcomes.

For further information please visit:

www.africalivestockdata.org

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