

Pastoralism in Kenya and Tanzania: Challenges and opportunities in animal health and food security



Cattle being sprayed with acaricide in Kajiado, Kenya.

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Introduction

Amongst pastoral communities, **livestock** is a form of savings, source of food, financial capital and the basis of wealth description. **Opportunities** for pastoral farmers immensely depend on the livestock assets that they own. However, they do also face **social, economic and environmental challenges** that hinder their capacity to harnessing these opportunities.

Objective

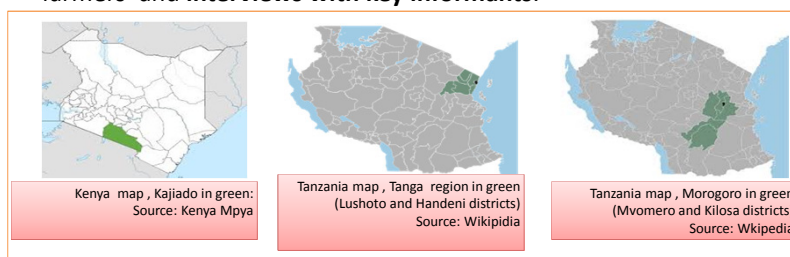
To describe the **challenges** currently being faced by pastoralist and to discuss **opportunities** available for these farmers in Kenya and Tanzania.



Interview being conducted in Handeni, Tanzania

Materials and methods

This was a cross-sectional study among **pastoralist communities** in Kajiado County (Kenya), and Tanga and Morogoro regions (Tanzania). A **structured questionnaire** was administered to 177 pastoral farmers and **interviews with key informants**.



Kenya map, Kajiado in green: Source: Kenya Mpya

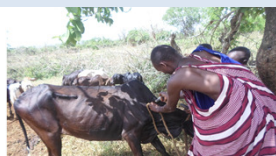
Tanzania map, Tanga region in green (Lushoto and Handeni districts) Source: Wikipedia

Tanzania map, Morogoro in green (Mvomero and Kilosa districts) Source: Wikipedia

Results

Challenges

- 37% (n=65) dependent on cattle rearing for livelihood.
- Limited access to quality veterinary services.
- Government veterinary offices are more 5 km away to 71% of the respondents.



Farmer administering treatment to his cow in Tanga, Tanzania

Opportunities

- Increase in human population within the region → **high demand** for tasty animal protein from pastoral areas.
- Weekly animal market days within major Townships in pastoral areas offers constant thriving **marketing avenues**.
- <1% of pastoral farmers are selling their milk to processors and only 15% sell to milk vendors → opportunity for **processing and value addition**.
- High quantity farm yard **manure** available in animal bomas → sold to supplement household income.
- Good **political will** in county governments to invest in livestock.

Research into use

- **Social transformation:** capitalizing on women through capacity building on clean and consistent milk production and marketing.
- **Diversification of economic activities:** more focus on marketing of other livestock products (e.g. manure, hides) will significantly reduce over dependency on sale of live livestock.
- Encouraging **public-private partnership** investments in the animal health sector within the pastoral areas to increase capacity.



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