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Commercial assets of the senegalese pastoral population (Ferlo)

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Introduction As economic actors , pastoralists of the Ferlo appeal to the markets in order to sell their products . Their sales aim at releasing monetary incomes that would allow them to cover their usual expenses and to ensure their food security . The results of our study show the levels and the distribution of the commercial incomes of the Ferlo pastoral population and their main spatial components .

Material and methods Our approach is grounded on two sampling levels adapted to the countries lacking in reliable statistical data . We reference by GPS 276 camps on four pastoral sites with public drillings (Boulal , Rewane , Tatki , Thiel) and one enclave set up with private wells (Mbame) . The sites are representative of the climatic , ecological and socio-economic diversity of the Senegalese Sahel (Ferlo) (**Figure . 1**) . The number of 276 camps results from statistical and analytical choice (error margin : 4 .68 percent , proportion : 50 percent , confidence interval : 95 percent) .

Results and discussions : The annual incomes (**Figure . 1**) are generated by the marketing of livestock farming animals and by-products up to 98 .41 percent , the asine and equine animals to 0 .80 percent and the farm products to 0 .78 percent . The income drawn from the livestock farming comes almost exclusively from the commercialisation of the livestock on the hoof (with more than 99 percent) whereas by-products of livestock farming (fresh milk , curdled milk and butter) rises marginally with less than 1 percent . The sale of the animals on the hoof is attributed to the bovines to 40 percent (male bovines getting nearly 2/3 of the incomes) , the ovines with 53 percent (strong domination of the sales of sheep to nearly 3/4 in particular during the Aid-el-Kebir celebration called "Tabaski" in Senegal) and the caprines to 7 percent (quasi equal sex ratio) . The marketing of the by-products of Livestock farming remains marginal and strongly constrained (deficit of basic services and infrastructures , seasonality , high costs of transaction) .

The distribution of income in pastoral zones remains particularly unequal (*Gini index* of 52 .8 percent) whereas the disparities blurred on the remainder of the national economy (ESAM 1 , 2) (**Figure . 2**) . Inequalities between the sites contribute to nearly 79 percent to the explanation of the total inequality observed in the pastoral commercial distribution of income .

The diversification of the pastoral economic activities in the Ferlo is not reflected on the level of the marketing of the pastoral products . Some productions of diversification , in particular agricultural and dairy products still remain largely intended for the family sustenance ; thus contributing to ensure the food security of the pastoralists .

Conclusions The level of food security and commercial incomes of Senegalese pastoralists are relatively independent from physical market proximity and not determined in priority by farm productions . The highest commercial incomes and the best spatial distribution are found in the enclave set up of Mbame so far from basic services and infrastructures . The equity and efficiency of sector-based development policies in Senegal primarily turned towards the modernization of the pastoral activity in order to ensure the animal products supplies of the urban centres should be questioned .

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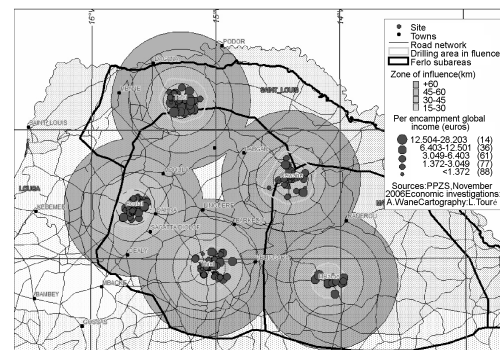


Figure 1 Whole zone—per camp global income .

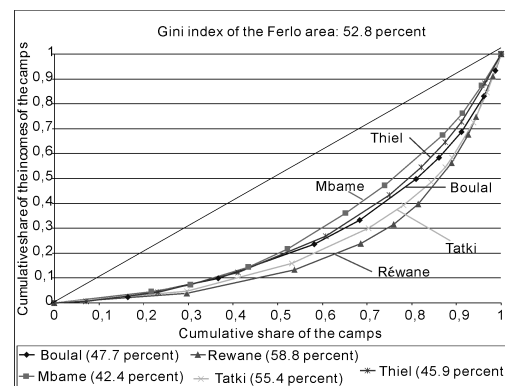


Figure 2 Investigated areas—Concentration curves .