### The Contribution of Livestock to the Kenyan Economy

Livestock specialists frequently argue that livestock production is underrepresented in the GDP estimates of African nations. With respect to Kenya this argument has been confirmed.

IGAD (Intergovernmental Authority on Development) and the Kenyan National Bureau of Statistics conducted a comprehensive study to evaluate the contribution of livestock to GDP. The study's findings indicated that livestock production accounts for a significant portion of GDP.

#### The estimated contribution of livestock to GDP

- **Cattle**: 24.3%
- **Goat**: 16.2%
- **Sheep**: 14.3%
- **Camel**: 10.3%
- **Pig**: 4.5%
- **Lamb**: 2.7%
- **Chicken**: 1.2%

#### The key factors

- **Agriculture**: 64.2%
- **Industry**: 21.2%
- **Services**: 14.6%

### Table 1: Kenyan livestock populations – old and new estimates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Livestock</th>
<th>Old Estimates</th>
<th>National MLD</th>
<th>National 2000</th>
<th>Percentage increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cattle</td>
<td>15,224,600</td>
<td>17,497,716</td>
<td>17.9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep</td>
<td>9,527,700</td>
<td>12,792,000</td>
<td>34.6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goats</td>
<td>14,279,000</td>
<td>17,913,111</td>
<td>25.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camels</td>
<td>1,132,000</td>
<td>2,971,111</td>
<td>165.6%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donkeys</td>
<td>769,800</td>
<td>1,802,516</td>
<td>135.6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pigs</td>
<td>530,020</td>
<td>334,960</td>
<td>-33.3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Recommendations

- **Improved livestock management practices**
- **Better access to markets**
- **Enhanced veterinary services**
- **Improved infrastructure**

### Disclaimer

Views expressed herein are of the author and not necessarily those of the organisations cited or the IGAD Secretariat.