



Introduction

Livestock production and trade contribute significantly to the national and agricultural GDP of the countries in the North East Africa region. However, the livestock sector is underperforming as it is seriously constrained among others by inadequate public and private investments, low volume of intra and interregional livestock trade and trans boundary animal diseases. The North East Africa Livestock Council (NEALCO), an apex regional Livestock Association, was established in 2012 to help unlock the potential of livestock especially through promotion of intra and interregional livestock trade. It was established initially through the support of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) by national livestock traders' associations. NEALCO draws Membership from 13 countries, namely: Burundi, Djibouti, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Eritrea, Ethiopia, Egypt, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda and Tanzania. Some of the above countries have multiple memberships with the RECs (IGAD, COMESA and EAC).

NEALCO is registered in Kenya as a regional association whose membership is drawn from national apex organizations. Generally, it is open to anyone working within the livestock sector. However, it faces a number of challenges, among others: Limited number of national livestock associations from which NEALCO can derive membership, limited capacity (financial, technical, organizational weakness) of livestock and livestock related associations in most member states and poor linkage between various actors e.g. producers and processors, credit suppliers, technology suppliers.

NEALCO Overall Objective

Its main objective is to promote, coordinate, share information and advocate for enhanced trade in livestock and livestock products within and outside the North and Eastern Africa region,

Vision: To be the leading regional association for promoting and coordinating trade and marketing of livestock and livestock products in Africa and beyond

Mission: To represent, lobby, advocate, coordinate and promote livestock and livestock related associations' interest in northern and north-eastern Africa for enhanced trade in livestock and livestock products within and outside the region.

What we aim to achieve?

- Improve organizational and management capacities of NEALCO member organizations in livestock production, health, trade and marketing.
- Provide functional and effective knowledge hub where member organizations can access information for the advancement of livestock sector.
- Provide an enabling environment for trade and marketing in livestock and livestock products
- Organize NEALCO into a vibrant, self-sustaining, efficient and effective organisation.

Our Functions areas

- Facilitating adherence to regional and international standards and self-regulation
- Promoting improved livestock production, health and marketing
- Promoting access to financial services including credit and insurance
- Facilitating livestock & livestock products marketing information sharing at regional level
- Supporting and collaborating with member states in resource mobilization and uptake for sustainability of investment potential profiles
- Promoting collaboration with other organizations with similar objectives within the member states, region and outside the region
- Promoting supportive policy and legal framework for regional and international livestock marketing and safe trade
- Enhancing value addition of livestock and livestock products
- Capacity building of the national livestock stakeholder organizations in the region
- Promoting the mainstreaming of pastoralist development policy (water infrastructure and rehabilitation of corridors, disease risk management, land use, value addition, mitigation of natural resource based conflicts and other related pastoral development issues)
- Mobilizing members to participate in the control of TADs in partnership with RECs and member states
- Supporting members in trade negotiations
- Working with similar groups for exchange of information and advice
- Taking any action that is lawful, which would help it to fulfil its aims

Programs/priority focus

- Capacity Building
- Communication, Information, Knowledge Management and Networking
- Policy and Advocacy
- Institutionalization of NEALCO

Current planned activities

- Strengthening of NEALCO secretariat office

- b) Introduction of NEALCO to RECs, technical and development partners and national associations etc
- c) Identification of possible strategic partners and supporters
- d) Mapping and membership drive – enlisting members to the association
- e) Enhance visibility of NEALCO
- f) Resource Mobilization
- g) Establish Advisory committee
- h) Undertake Monitoring and Evaluation

Partners

AU-IBAR, IGAD/ICPALD, ACTESA, COMESA, EAC, FAO, OIE, are major technical partners for NEALCO and members of its Advisory Committee. NEALCO also partners with all relevant stakeholders among the livestock value-chain actors

Acknowledgement

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The North East Africa Livestock Council

(NEALCO)



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