



www.igad.int

Regional Pastoral Livelihood Resilience Project (RPLRP)



**CONSULTATIVE REGIONAL WORKSHOP TO ENHANCE PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF CAMEL PRODUCTS
AT TRAVELLERS BEACH HOTEL, MOMBASA
13TH - 14TH JUNE 2019**

Background

IGAD region is home to 17,506,106 camels (51% of the world population) which dwell in arid and semi-arid land (ASALs). Camel is drought resilient and expanding to new frontier as introduced by pastoralists to counter recurrent droughts.

The demand for live camels, its meat and milk in the IGAD region and Middle East and North Africa countries is high because of the affordable price of its meat and the traditional belief of the potential medicinal value of the milk and perceived low risks from tuberculosis (TB) and Brucellosis. As a consequence, camel milk is favorably utilized in the diets of children, sick and elderly persons for medicinal purposes¹. Moreover, camels withstand drought rendering them easier to expand in many areas in the region.

Therefore, a two days regional workshop was organized to review the current status of camel production and marketing; good practices and lessons learnt from past investments and

¹ Michele N, Mathew BK, Mohammed AY, Fadumo HM (2006): Milking Drylands: the Marketing of Camel Milk in North-East Somalia, from http://www.igaddata.org/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=1362&Itemid=43

challenges that affect the value chain. Workshop participants included veterinary technical personnel from ministries responsible of animal resources, the private sector (milk processors, exporter and association), research institutions (ILRI and KALRO), non-governmental organizations (Mercy Corp, World vision and Save the Children) and (USAID).

Welcome and opening remarks

In his welcoming remarks Dr. Munyua pointed out that the IGAD region with about 60% of the World's camel population is yet to fully exploit the economic potential of this very hardy animal, which has increased in number, production and productivity despite the challenges of climate change. He noted that camel utilization has largely remained in the traditional realms of meat and milk while neglecting processing of camel skins and hides, camel racing, high value milk products such as cheese and flavored milk, camel milk soap and perfumes and camel milk skin conditioners. However, he appreciated the efforts by milk processors in Nanyuki, Kenya; Jigjiga, Ethiopia; Burao, Somaliland and Khartoum, Sudan.

However, there are some challenges that needed to be addressed including poor and unhygienic milking and handling of milk, shortage of feed during drought and especially with intensification of production of dairy camels. Adulteration of milk and contamination while in transit, chemical and antibiotic residues and long distances from production centres. Despite all these challenges, the Camel remains the hope of the ASALs and our main safeguard against climate change.

Dr. Obadiah Njagi, the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO), Kenya, in his opening remarks informed participants that Kenya has nearly 3 million camels in ASALs which form over 80% of the country's landmass. Camels contributes to pastoral resilience bearing in mind climate change that has seen an increase in the frequency of drought in the region. However, camels are affected by a number of unrecognized diseases, sudden death, HS, MERS-COV, poor or no standard pest control procedures among others. Moreover, there are no standardized diseases surveillance procedures for camels, compromising animal health service delivery to this species. However, through IGAD effort, grades and standards of live camels have been developed to promote trade. However, IGAD member states should focus on value addition in camel products like milk, meat and hides, a value chain that is poorly developed.

Proceedings

These were structured in the form of presentations and plenary discussion

Presentations

1. An overview of camel resources and marketing in the IGAD region- Dr. Ameha (ICPALD)
2. An overview of camel production health, trade, camel production processing (milk, meat and hide) key national actions so far, success story, challenges and future priority in Ethiopian, Kenya, South Sudan, Djibouti and Uganda-
3. INNOVATIONS FOR DRYLAND PASTORAL SYSTEMS- *Diyad Hujale (Mercy Corps BRACED)*
4. Camel Research in Kenya: The Camel Sudden Death, Value Addition and Recommendations- KALRO (Dr. Kuria)
5. Camel milk processors- Ethiopia and Kenya

Key plenary discussion points

- Sudden death of camels from unknown disease has been an issue in the region despite the massive research involving universities (University of Nairobi) and external experts from USA and Germany has not made any definitive diagnosis. The disease kills only few camels in a herd and lasts for years before it re-emerges. Research to unravel the disease is still going on.
- Creation of a platform between research institutions like universities, agriculture research institutions, ILRI among others where findings and good practices can be shared. Researchers should undertake their research through community participation since the latter have a wealth of experience in camels husbandry and health.
- Kenya has developed standards for fried camel meat preserved in cooking liquid oil (Nyirinyiri) to support hygiene processing for sale even in high end markets like Supermarkets. Enforcement of the standards will see up-scaled production and safety of this delicacy that has a long shelf life after preparation
- Proper harvesting and processing of camel hides into leather and production of leather goods and footwear is a potential for exploitation. Camel hide can also be used to make gelatin
- Support to improve hygienic milking and transportation of camel milk is key to minimize post-harvest loses. Moreover, value addition through pasteurization, processing of ghee among others will prolong the shelf life and improve returns. Mercy Corps has supported hygiene milk handling and transportation in Wajir by providing one transport vehicle and opening milk ATM. As a result, six private vehicle transporters have so far joined camel milk transport business after realizing that it is profitable
- Milk processors like White Gold Camel Milk (Nanyuki, Kenya) and Berwaqo (Ethiopia) sell their processed milk to supermarkets, individuals on order and some hospitals since the milk is valued as medicinal for patients with lactose intolerance, diabetes and tuberculosis even though not sufficient data is available by research despite some publication in peer review journals. Moreover, camel milk is low in cholesterol, fats and high in vitamin C as compared to cow milk. This has contributed to increased camel milk consumption by many pastoralists in the region and Middle East and North Africa countries
- Training institutions in Kenya have included training modules on camels in animal health and production trainings at certificate, diploma and degree levels to create critical mass to handle challenges related to camel production. Research, training and extension in camel has been improving lately.

Day 2

Presentations

1. Overview of Camel Production, Health & Trade ; SOMALIA- Care international
2. Ethiopian camel export- Camel exporter

3. Case of Kenya Camel Association (KCA) in supporting members in enhancing camel production and trade- KCA
4. Experiences/Lessons Learnt through USAID Investments & *Expected to Impact Camel Development*- ILRI

Key plenary discussion points

- Road infrastructure for transportation of animals including camels to export ports in Somalia is fair except in rangelands. Moreover, market information is shared on BBC and local radio stations in the mornings as a way to mitigate price exploitation of pastoralists by traders. However, animal welfare for camels is wanting during transportation and slaughter
- Informal trade in live animals including camels is too much in the region affecting formal traders. Awareness creation to traders and incentives from governments and development partners can reverse the trend
- ICPALD will share the signed MoUs on crossborder animal health and sanitary measures and developed implementation framework with interested NGOs so that they can utilize them while implementing their crossborder activities
- It is good for livestock exporting countries to enter into bilateral agreements with importing countries like Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), UAE, Sultanate of Oman etc in order to resolve frequent livestock export bans especially by KSA. However, IGAD has established a technical committee of CVOs of exporting and importing countries that share information on trade and sanitary issues to enhance transparency and reduce trade bans or rejections of export consignments
- IGAD member states without livestock master plan should develop one to guide livestock development in their countries. Only Ethiopia has one
- ILRI, KALRO and IGAD working with other partners including Central Veterinary Research Laboratories in UAE should undertake research on the medicinal value of camel milk and meat in the region
- The presentation from ILRI noted high prevalence of stunting (chronic malnutrition) in the camel producing areas. For example, Wajir in Kenya has an average of stunting of 26%. Stunting results in poor cognitive development which is irreversible and thus affects human capital and its future potential productivity. Milk from camels, available even in dry seasons, can be utilized to help address the prevalence of malnutrition. There is a need to sensitize communities through behaviour change communication combined with support to pastoralists to increase camel milk production, milk value addition for increased self-life and distribution through local market systems. Pastoralists need to be particularly sensitized on importance of ensuring good feeding practices during the first 1000 days (from conception to 2nd birth day of child) in order to avoid stunting.
- Kenya Camel Association was established to care for interests of mainstream stakeholders of camels with the support of development partners and the government. Its members include pastoralists, researchers from KALRO, universities, ILRI etc. The association receives financial support from donors.

- IGAD has regional SPS strategy that is being domesticated in some member states. It also has a regional animal welfare strategy that has been domesticated by four countries (Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Sudan)

Recommendations and way forward

1. Member states should review or develop livestock policies to incorporate and advocate for camel issues and welfare along the value chain to influence government financial allocation
2. Member states should support capacity development in camel health and husbandry practices by liaising with training institutions to include modules on camels in their training curriculum (certificate, diploma and degree) and strengthen extension service
3. IGAD should support the development of a regional camel development strategy and policy framework for domestication by member states
4. IGAD, research institutions, development partners (donors and implementing) and member states should support research efforts involving community participation to promote breeding programmes, unravel/ mitigate undiagnosed camel diseases and develop standard surveillance procedures to improve camel productivity and health service delivery
5. IGAD should support the development of a regional camel forum (as a sub-network of animal health network) incorporating all interest groups in camel issues for sharing good practices, challenges, lessons learned, research findings, market needs for networking purpose
6. Member states, development partners and IGAD should support value addition in live camels and camel core (milk & meat) & by- products (hides, bones [necklaces, key holders] etc) along the value chain and strengthen market linkages to minimize informal trade,
7. Member states, development partners and IGAD should support rangeland improvement through rehabilitation, develop standard operating guidelines and strengthen governance structures to mitigate effects of drought, climate change, land degradation and invasive weeds encroachment,
8. Member states and IGAD should develop bankable proposals and seek for willing development partners to finance camel development projects at national and regional levels

List of participants

Name	Organization	Country	Contact
Dr Jacob Korok	MOL	S/Sudan	jacobkorok@yahoo.co.uk
Tezera Getahun	Pastoral Forum Ethiopia	Ethiopia	tezerag@yahoo.co.uk
Simon Kuria	KALRO	Kenya	kuriasq@gmail.com
Yosef Tadesse	Hamara University	Ethiopia	yosef.tadesse@gmail.com

Gifawosen Tessema	MOA	Ethiopia	gifawtess@yahoo.com
YONAS Alemayehu	MOA	Ethiopia	alemalemayehu22@gmail.com
Amir Muktar	Berwaqo Milk factory	Ethiopia	amirmuktar571@gmail.com
Khalid Abey	Camel National Forum	Kenya	khalifabbey@gmail.com
Obadiah Njagi	MOAL	Kenya	jesse.mwere@gmail.com
Vincent Githinji	MOL	Kenya	ngariqithinji@gmail.com
David Nsubuga	MAAIF	Uganda	dvdnsubuga@yahoo.co.uk
Kebadu Belay	VSF	Ethiopia	kebadu.belay@vsf-suisse.org
Henry Narangui	Save the Children, Somalia	Somalia	henry.narangui@savethechildren.org
Charles Otieno	World Vision	Somalia	Charles_Otieno@wvi.org
Osman Abdi	World Vision	Somalia	osman.abdiadar@care.org
Tracy McCracken	USAID	Kenya	tmccracken@usaid.gov
Dr Mohamed Omar	MOL	Somalia	dqmolsfr@gmail.com
Jamaa Warsame	Camel Milk	Kenya	iwarsame1976@gmail.com
Kibre Mulat	Camel Export	Ethiopia	kenemulat51@gmail.com
Dr Ahmed Issa	Camel quarantine	Djibouti	peace.123434@gmail.com
George Njoroqe	ILRI	Kenya	g.wamwere-njoroqe@cgiar.org
Ibrahim Ahmed	MOL	Djibouti	ibrahemedvet@gmail.com
Turmal Orto	Marsabit	Kenya	tumalorto@yahoo.com
Ahmed Mohamoud	IGAD	Kenya	ahmed.mohamoud@igad.int
Dr Solomon Munyua	IGAD		
Ameha Sebsibe	IGAD		
Osman Babikir	IGAD		
Caroline Kirungu	IGAD		
Wamalwa Kinyanjui	IGAD		