



Regional Pastoral Livelihoods Resilience Project (RPLRP)

Regional Meeting: Grades and Standards Harmonization for Live Animal, Meat and Hides & Skins

30th January to 1st February 2018, Adama, Ethiopia



Participant Group Photo - Adama, Ethiopia

Meeting Minute



Introduction

Regional Pastoral Livelihoods Resilience Project (RPLRP) is being implemented in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda and funded by the World Bank. IGAD is tasked with harmonization of policies in the project participating countries in order to encourage cross-border and regional trade. Harmonization of grades and standards of live animals, meat and hides & skins for camels, cattle and sheep & goats was started in October 2015 through technical support of IGAD Center for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD). In the earlier meetings, it was found out that in all the three countries camel grade and standard (live, meat and skin) was not available. However Ethiopia had applicable national standards and grades for the three commodities while Kenya had national guidelines for live animal trade only applicable in agricultural shows, producer associations, Breed societies and National Livestock Marketing System. It was also noted that Uganda had no national live animal standards and grades. However, the three countries had applicable national standards and grades of meat and hides & skins.

A follow up technical working group workshop took place in Naivasha, Kenya in May, 2016. The technical meetings further reviewed the three countries grades and standards in live animals, meat and hides & skins with a view of harmonizing. It was agreed to establish national working group and terms of reference (ToR) for technical working groups were developed to undertake further review and or develop grade and standards for the three commodities (live animal, meat and hide and skin) at each country's level with the support of national standard agencies. The main focus were camel, cattle, and sheep and goat. So far, the three countries have draft grade and standard for some commodities and gazzated for other commodities. Thus regional level final review meeting workshop was organized for two days in Adama, Ethiopia. At the end of the workshop, a visit was organized for meeting participants to secondary market infrastructure, feedlots, export abattoir, and leather industry development institute.

Opening remarks

The workshop was opened officially by the State Minister of Livestock Market and Trade, in the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Ethiopia, HE, Alebachew Nugussie who emphasized the importance of harmonized grades and standards for the three commodities in order to enhance trade among the three countries with a potential role out to other IGAD member states. He informed the meeting that the AU heads of summit meeting in Addis Ababa that happened end of January, 2018 really focused on enhancing free trade area in Africa and this is the stepping stone to regional integration. He officially opened the meeting and wished all a happy deliberation with fruitful outcome with the blessings from the Ethiopian government. Dr. Dereje addressed the meeting on behalf of IGAD/ICPALD Director. Participants in the meeting included representatives from the national standard agencies and Ministries in charge of Livestock from Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda.

Objectives of the meeting

- Review the drafts developed on grades and standards on live animals, meat and hides & skins by the three countries and isolate areas for harmonization;
- Jointly agree on what is applicable in the three countries before finalization of the grades and standards of the three commodities by country teams and national stakeholder forums;
- Discuss & agree on timelines of obtaining finalized harmonized grade and standards of the three commodities;
- Discuss and agree on strategies and modalities of how the harmonized grades and standards will be shared and disseminated among mainstream stakeholders in the three MS; and
- Conduct a field visit to feedlots in Adama and export abattoir in Modjo, Ethiopia

Presentations

Summary of deliberations from the May, 2016 workshop

Agreed action points and recommendations from the May, 2016 meeting were presented together with highlight about ICPALD's additional coordination work.

Discussion points after presentation

- Participants raised the importance of rolling out into the remaining IGAD Member States to enhance inter-regional cross border trade,
- It was noted that countries have laws and regulations to regulate trade of the three commodities but enforcement is usually weak. Thus participants discussed about importance of strengthening the national regulatory bodies for enforcement of harmonized grades and standards,
- The participants also emphasized that it will be useful to undertake nationwide dissemination to stakeholders including extension workers, traders as well as farmers and pastoralists after gazzeting.

Presentations by the three Countries

1. Current status of development of grades and standards in meat (Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda)
2. Meat training institutes activities towards support for meat grades and standards (Ethiopia)
3. Current status of standards on Hides and skins (green & wet blue) (Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda)
4. Current status of developing grades and status for live animals (Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda)

Discussion points

The participants noted that minor difference in each country will accommodate local and national context on certain grade and standards. But these points have minor impact on harmonization.

In general 90- 100% similarities noted for grades and standards of the three commodities as indicated in the matrix (Table 1).

Table 1: Matrix of current harmonization level by commodities

Commodity	Camels	Bovine	Sheep & goats
Live animals	90%	90%	95%
Meat	100%	95%	100%
Hides & skins	100%	100%	100%

- The minor differences were regarded as national issues to take care of local and national contexts. The countries will review some points for purposes of harmonization to enhance cross border trade especially for Ethiopia on live camel grading exclude use of color for grading); Kenya & Uganda to revisit grading of veal; while Uganda to revisit grading of live animals based on age among others.
- The three countries agreed to finalize pending documents for gazettment by 30th June, 2018.
- The meeting participants also discussed about importance of developing standard and code of practice for live animal transportation. All the three countries agreed to develop a harmonized standard and code of practice taking into account animal welfare, environment and hygiene practices.

Recommendations

1. The three countries agreed to gazette by June 30th 2018 Grades and Standards of Live Animals. Ethiopia will only work on Camel because the others are already gazetted. Through consultation of the three countries national standard agencies, IGAD RPLRP will compile one booklet of the grades and standards of live animals for dissemination by December 2018;
2. Dissemination and familiarization of the gazetted grades and standards of the three commodities at national levels through stakeholder workshops and training of extension workers will be supported by national RPLRP from January 2019; and
3. The three countries shall prepare draft standard for transportation of live animals for trade, taking into account issues of animal welfare, environment and hygiene by June, 30th 2018.

Annex 1: Differences in grades and standards

Commodity	Camels	Bovine	Sheep & goats
Live animals	Colour to be dropped from Ethiopia,	Uganda to adopt the scoring matrix parameters for trade like Ethiopia and Kenya	Minimum weight for goats in Kenya is 15 kg, Ethiopia is 25 kg while Uganda is from 20 kg for male & 15 for female
Meat		<p>Veal-</p> <p>-Uganda Grade A- eligible slaughter stock should be males, aged 1 day to 4 months, and Carcass Dressed Weight (CDW) between 15- 60 kg. Grade B- males, aged 2-4 months, CDW 61- 80 kg- (It was agreed to review these weight to tally with age)</p> <p>-Ethiopia has no veal</p> <p>-Kenya- Eligible stock are all calves from day 1 upto 9 months. A- 32-61 kgs B- 61- 68 kg- (Agreed to review grade based on age rather than weight) Poor- anything beyond 68 kgs</p>	
Hides & skins		Adopt/ Adapt ISO by the 3 countries	Same as bovine

Annex 2: Action plans by country and timeline for the 3 commodities

Live camel, bovine and shoats				
Country	28th Feb	15th March	15th April	30th June
Ethiopia	Final draft	Submit to Ethiopia Standard Agency	Endorsement by national council	
Kenya	Finalize consultation and submit to Kenya Bureau of Standards			Gazettment
Uganda	Finalize consultation submit to Uganda National Bureau of Standards			Gazettment
Meat				
Kenya	Finalize consultation and submit to Kenya Bureau of Standards			
Uganda	Will revisit the carcass dressed weight for veal in consultation forums			Gazettment
Hides and skins				
Ethiopia (camel hides)	Same as for live camels			
Kenya (camel, cattle and sheep/goats)	Finalize consultation and submit to Kenya Bureau of Standards			Gazettment
Uganda (bovine, sheep/goats)	Finalize consultation submit to Uganda National Bureau of Standards			Gazettment

Annex 3: Field visits

- The team visited a secondary livestock market that is under construction in Adama. It has a number of infrastructures under construction such as roads, perimeter wall, offices, toilets, sheds for livestock and people, watering troughs, overhead water tanks among others
- The team was led to two feedlots; cattle and camels in Adama. The feedlots are well fenced and located in areas designated only for export livestock to minimize disease spread.
- The team was taken to Allana export slaughterhouse in Modjo. The slaughterhouse has a capacity of slaughtering 3,000 heads of cattle and 6,000-7,000 heads of sheep and goats per day. It exports in 74 countries around the world. Red offal are mostly exported to Africa-DRC, Angola while white offal are mostly exported to Vietnam, China and Malaysia. Meat is mostly exported as frozen whenever there is demand.



Group photo at Allana export slaughterhouse, Modjo

- The team also visited Leather Industry Development Institute that trains students on how to make leather goods, garments and foot wear. They process the leather from raw hides and skins upto finished products.