

POLICY BRIEF SERIES

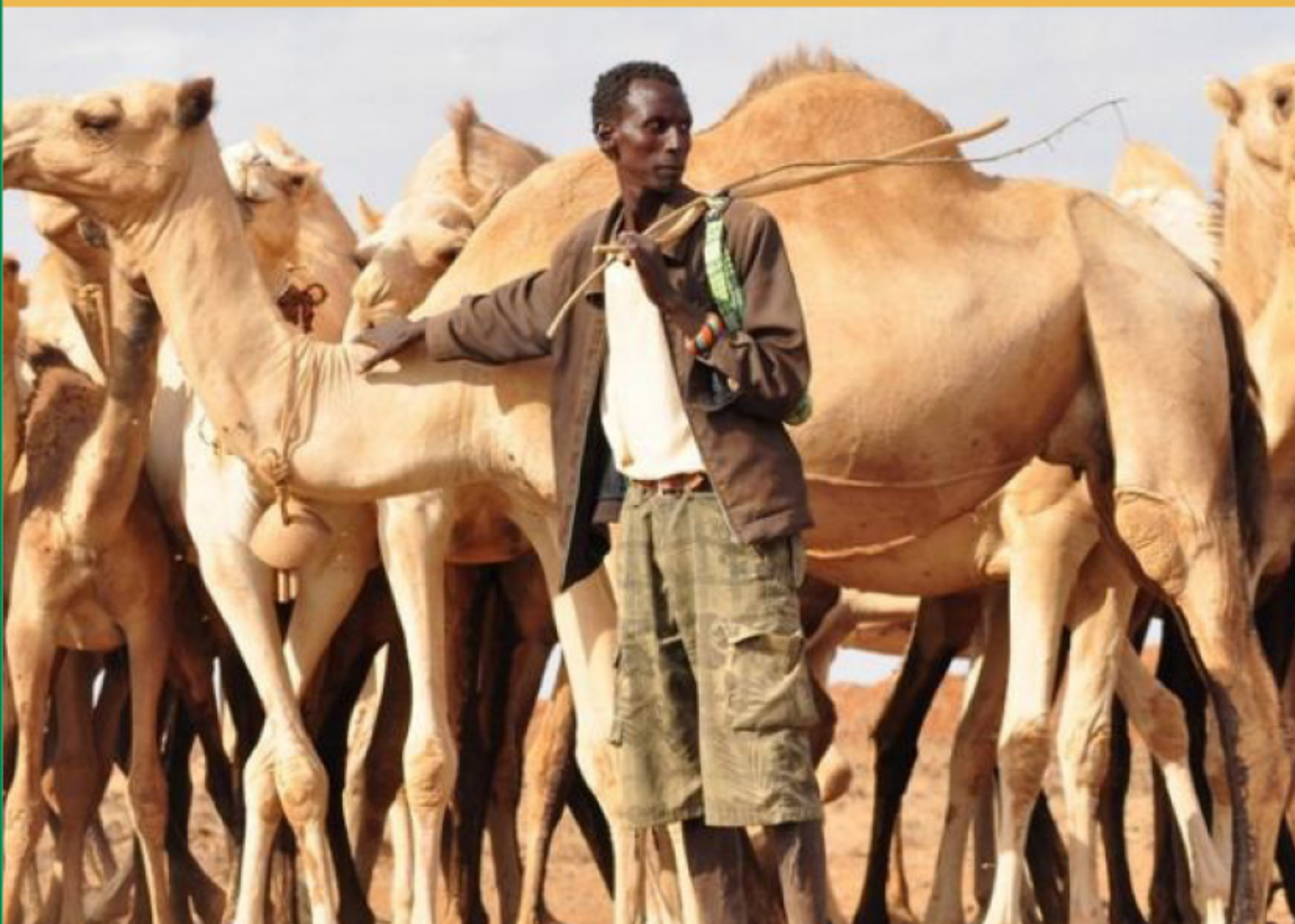


ICPALD

IGAD CENTRE FOR PASTORAL AREAS AND LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT



POLICY BRIEF ON ENHANCING FEED SECURITY IN THE IGAD REGION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



AGENZIA ITALIANA
PER LA COOPERAZIONE
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Introduction

The IGAD region comprises of seven member states (Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda) of which about 60 - 70% of the landmass is Arid and Semi-arid Lands (ASALs). The ASALs are characterized by low erratic rainfall of up to 500mm per annum, cyclic devastating droughts and varying combinations of vegetative covers and soils. The majority of the 205 million people inhabiting the ASALs depend on livestock production and/or pastoralism which faces ecological constraints including climate extremes. The rangelands are the most vulnerable to climate variability, which further exacerbated by misuse and mismanagement of the land resource. Impact of climate change on range genetic resources is clearly manifested in steady deterioration of both the productivity and biological diversity coupled with dominance of undesirable and invasive plant species.

The large livestock resource base estimated at more than 520 million contributes about 57% of the regional Agricultural Gross Domestic Product (AGDP). The region is the leading exporter of livestock and livestock products accounting for approximately 42% of the continent's exports. However, the region suffers from severe effects of climate change with recurring severe climatic events like droughts and floods that have affected the production and productivity of animal feed including quality pasture and fodder. The resultant impacts of sparse rainfall, emergencies due to disasters and increasing human population pressure pose as the major challenges to sustainable pasture and fodder development in ASAL areas.

Insufficient pasture and fodder undermines member state efforts of enhancing livestock production and productivity and exports of strategic livestock-based commodities. Furthermore, exported livestock often arrive at destination markets in Middle East and North Africa (MENA) countries in suboptimal body conditions fetching low prices. Moreover, inadequate fodder and livestock feed negatively affects livestock inputs (draft power, transport, and manure for crop production), saleable outputs (milk and milk products, meat, manure/dung and hides and skins) and safety net asset security for livestock dependent pastoralists and agropastoralists.

Even though a number of member states like Ethiopia and Sudan have made great strides towards enhancing commercial fodder and pasture production, the enabling

policies to attract private sectors are inadequate to ensure sustainability of production and supply all year-round in all the IGAD member states. Therefore, pasture availability and quality is a major challenge across the region subjecting pastoralists' and agropastoralists dependency on limited natural pastures and crop residues for feed thereby marketable supply of animals is affected and rangeland deteriorated. According to FAO-IGAD Rapid Cross-Border Drought Assessment report of February 2017, 2016/2017 drought impact on farmers was critical. The post-dry assessment in Somalia indicated crop production was 75 percent below the five-year average in 2016; in Kenya, yields were 30–50 percent below average; and in Ethiopia, while crop harvests generally improved compared with 2015, localized areas again saw below-average production. This led to reduced availability of pasture/fodder and water contributing to deteriorated poor livestock body conditions, with increased disease morbidity and livestock mortality from simple preventable diseases.

It is prudent to involve pastoralists/agropastoralists in sound rangeland/environmental management and conservation techniques which require integrated multi-sectoral approaches across issues of policy, institutional arrangements, technical approaches and investment interventions. Particularly important are clear rangeland tenure arrangements that will motivate the beneficiaries to utilize rehabilitated sites in a sustainable manner for pasture/fodder production, conservation and marketing.

Towards this endeavor, IGAD member states have a number of initiatives meant to increase pasture and fodder crop production and quality but since the efforts are not coordinated and with limited magnitude, we are unable to address the feed crisis. IGAD/ ICPALD in collaboration with partners compiled and documented good practices that will enhance fodder and range and seed production & marketing; established regional fodder-rangeland platform to exchange lessons and successful feed interventions and organized fodder promotion workshop for the private sector to inform on the available interventions that will help improve investment on feed and seed production. The purpose of this policy brief is to summarize and share key limitations and proposed recommendations to policy makers and stakeholders to promote further debate and enable concrete actions for enhanced feed security in the region.



Pasture in field



Harvested pasture stored in open



Crop residues conserved in the open



Fodder displayed for sale on market

Key Limitations Affecting Feed Security

1. Outdated or insufficient policies, strategies, laws and regulations to appropriately guide/ regulate rangeland and fodder management in member states,
2. Inadequate application of sustainable natural resource management technologies for rangeland improvement,
3. Inadequate capacity of development actors like public/ private sector agencies and organized groups that can effectively manage, supervise and monitor natural feed resources and establish feed reserves,
4. Limited data on estimates of the proportion of number of animals kept within specific communal production systems per ecological zone and annual feed demand and deficit,
5. Insufficient and inappropriate infrastructure to support adequate pasture/fodder production, harvesting, storage and distribution/ marketing,
6. Inadequate measures to control invasive species and insufficient use of drought tolerant fodder seeds, enhanced access and use of fertilizers/ manures,
7. Livestock feed products on the market are limited, substandard and seasonal which frustrates many farmers and pastoralists who incur losses due to high production costs,
8. Inadequate livestock feeding systems that promote integrated use of natural pastures, commercial feeds, crop residues/industrial by-products and utilization of invasive species to facilitate supplementation,
9. Poor quality or unavailability of pasture seeds,
10. Inadequate research and extension services towards modern technologies of fodder/pasture production and feed processing for use in different agro-ecological zones and different production system,
11. Cattle rustling and conflict between pastoralists and crop farmers over range lands and livestock routes.

Proposed Policy Recommendations

1. Member states should review and/or develop where applicable rangeland and fodder policies, strategies laws/ regulations for efficient management of the rangeland and feed.
2. Member states should enhance extension services and provide appropriate awareness creation and/or training to actors involved in the range improvement to utilize modern technologies by smallholder farmers, cooperatives and the private sector actors engaged in livestock and/or fodder/fodder seed production,
3. Member states should promote market orientation in pasture and fodder production and marketing to stimulate private sector investment or strengthen public private partnership (PPP) involvement in order to enhance fodder/seed production and marketing,
4. Member states should advocate for control or management of bush encroachment and invasive species through stakeholder consultation and mobilization, promote alternative uses such as harvesting of pods for livestock feed, source of bio-fuel, timber and application of appropriate control technologies,
5. Member states should advocate for enhanced investment on scaling up of feed and fodder seed production; establishment and operationalization of feed reserve and water interventions.
6. Member states should encourage and support private sectors to invest in good quality pasture seed production, harvesting, storage and marketing.

IGAD/ICPALD expresses appreciation to Italian Development Cooperation for financing the editing and printing of this policy brief through the IGAD /FAO implemented livestock and meat project.



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IGAD extends its appreciation to;

- The European Union, for providing complementary funds through FAO (INFORMED programme) to support implementation of this activity.
- Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia Government for contributions and support.

Published by IGAD Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development

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