



PRESS RELEASE

Regional Workshop for IGAD Exporting and MENA Importing Countries

ENTEBBE, 8 July 2024 – The IGAD Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD) is set to host two meetings for IGAD exporting and Middle East and North Africa (MENA) importing countries on July 8 and July 9-10 2024, for the private sector and regulatory bodies respectively, at the Best Western Premier Garden Hotel Entebbe.

With financial support from FAO/SFE, the meetings aim to strengthen collaboration for enhanced trade of meat and livestock and investment. The 3rd Private Sectors meeting on July 8 will review and evaluate the accomplishments made so far, address the challenges faced by exporters and importers and chart ways to spur trade between the two regions.

Similarly, the 7th inter-regional joint regulatory bodies meeting on July 9-10 will focus on enhancing inter-regional Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs)/quarantine networks for enhancing trust and transparency between the importing and exporting countries, thereby reduce rejection of export products and trade bans.

Bringing together regulatory body officials, exporters and importers, and CVOs from IGAD countries, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Egypt and UAE, it is expected that comprehensive deliberations on issues regarding livestock trade compliance, harmonizing laboratory test methods, current joint investments and planning for future inter-regional investment forums will take place.

The IGAD region exports live animals and meat to huge import markets in MENA countries, annually meeting about 50% of live animals and 10% of meat market demands. This means that the region has a huge potential to increase market share to MENA due to its advantageous close proximity to MENA, having similar animal body configuration & meat taste, and providing relatively cheaper prices, among others.

To improve transparency, trust and enhance trade from the IGAD region to MENA countries, ICPALD in collaboration with FAO organized the first inter-regional IGAD-MENA countries meeting in 2016. Some of the key issues raised at this forum were on animal health challenges, animal trade compliance, trade bans, slaughterhouse approval process, quarantine facilities, updated sanitary requirements including vaccination, communication flow, amongst others.

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