



## IGAD CENTRE FOR PASTORAL AREAS AND LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT (ICPALD)



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### FACT SHEET: PASTORAL EXTENSION SYSTEM

#### 1.0 Background

The Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) region comprising of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan and Uganda has a high population growth rate of 3% (with the total population doubling every 23 years) and an increasingly young population with over 60% of the estimated 242 million people being youths. It is the region with the highest environmental vulnerability worldwide and is thus widely exposed to food insecurity.



#### 1.1 Livestock Contribution to IGAD

Its vast rangelands, accounting to 60-70%, are predominantly inhabited by pastoralists and agro-pastoralists who support the majority of the region's 520 million livestock of which 242 million (35%) are small ruminants and contribute 10% – 50% of the individual countries' agricultural GDP.



## **2.0. Extension Services**

Agricultural extension plays a crucial role in boosting agricultural productivity, increasing food security, improving rural livelihoods, and promoting agriculture as an engine of pro-poor economic growth. It can also help IGAD farmers increase their agricultural productivity and enhance their standard of living as well as contributing significantly to regional, national and rural prosperity. The IGAD region however has very limited access to extension services. Where there are services, the reported system is usually a replica of the system designed for the sedentary production system, a contribution to pastoralists lagging behind in adoption of modern innovations and technologies. This inhibits proper planning and use of rangelands for enhanced productivity.

## **2.1 Agricultural Service Providers in IGAD**

### **2.1.1 Government**

Agricultural extension services in IGAD are almost entirely performed by government under the guidance of the respective ministries responsible for agriculture. These services rely on interpersonal knowledge transfers by agricultural extension agents who visit farmers to provide information to individual farmers or farmers' groups in their official areas.

### **2.1.2 Non-Government Organizations (NGOs)/Development Partners**

A number of Non-Government Organizations (NGOs)/development partners have also joined in offering extension services. They give support in disease control activities such as vaccinations, surveillance, research in livestock diseases, provision of drugs, vaccines and cold chain facilities, training of farmers and Community Animal Disease Reporters (Health Workers) among others. In addition, they are also involved in drought response interventions. Some of the development partners offering extension services include FAO, USAID, ILRI, World Vision, Mercy Corps and Feed the Future among others.



### 2.1.3 Private Sector

Several private service providers especially drug shops also provide veterinary extension services. Farmers are able to buy drugs for treating their animals and occasionally receive advice. There was however a danger of drug abuse.



## 2.2 Extension Approaches in IGAD

IGAD has various extension models currently being implemented. These can be divided into two main types: Top down approaches i.e. from international institutions or national governments and participatory approaches that engage farmers as shown in the Table below.

Top-down Approach	Participatory Approach
National Public Extension Model	Non-Governmental Organization Extension Model
Training and Visit (T&V) Extension Model	Farmer Field School
Private Sector Model	National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS), Uganda
Fee-For-Service Extension Models	Participatory Demonstration and Training Extension System (PADETES), Ethiopia
	National Agriculture and Livestock Extension Programme (NALEP), Kenya

## The e-Extension System

Some IGAD Member States are now piloting e-extension though this is still in preliminary stages. This system may in part replace personal visits and enhance extension agents' capacity to link their clients with other suppliers of information. The ICT enabled extension can expand to reach marginalized population groups by overcoming structural and practical constraints. It also has the potential to raise farmers' voices and attract renewed attention to the role of extension.

## 2.3 Challenges of Extension Services

Despite the presence of several players in extension services and availability of various models, the services are inadequate. The inadequate funding by governments result in inadequate staffing and delivery of extension services thus frustrating efforts of achieving sustainable rangeland management.

## 3.0 Proposals

To effectively address veterinary extension services and make IGAD pastoralists more resilient to environmental change, a flexible participatory client-based and client-oriented extension approach that harnesses ICT and the extension workers' intimate knowledge of their clients and their life situations to plan for problem-oriented extension activities is proposed. This approach will permit extension staff not only to be transmitters of technical knowledge but also to act as "socio-economic community workers" practicing participatory methods, recognizing and respecting gender issues, identifying indigenous needs and problem solutions, and serve as a link to the world outside the community.

Effective agricultural extension services requires addressing factors such as markets, agricultural improved technology, availability of supplies, production incentives and transport in order to accelerate development. It also requires capacity building of the staff to be more equipped with knowledge in natural resources management and marketing of range products. There is also need to legalize the practice of CAHWs/CDRs so as to supplement the efforts of extension workers.

There is need to allocate sufficient funds to enable wider extension coverage and ensure all farmers receive adequate knowledge and technologies. Since addressing the challenges of agricultural extension surpasses the capacities of poorer countries, notably in Africa, IGAD Member States should embrace a regional approach to revitalize agricultural extension. They could source funding for regional projects to address common challenges regionally.

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