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Technical Policy Brief/ KIEP/2

Promoting Sustainable Growth in the Livestock sector: Value Chain Insights from Narok and Kajiado Counties



Key messages

- ❖ Livestock is a key economic activity in Kajiado and Narok Counties, primarily driven by pastoralism, but the value chains remain underdeveloped with limited value addition.
- ❖ The livestock value chains are closely tied to the cultural practices of the pastoral communities, with distinct gender roles: men dominate the beef value chain, while women are more involved in the milk value chain.
- ❖ Seasonal fluctuations in livestock availability due to animal migration significantly impact the performance and stability of the value chains.
- ❖ Key areas for improvement include upgrading technology, enhancing technical and managerial skills, improving record management, and strengthening marketing and market linkages.
- ❖ SMEs involved in the value chains often lack the financial capacity to acquire necessary technologies and infrastructure, despite understanding their technology needs. Enhanced financing is critical to support these enterprises.

Executive Summary

This technical policy brief presents findings from a survey on livestock value chains in Narok and Kajiado counties. In this context, the Kenya Industrial Research and Development Institute (KIRDI) with support from the Ministry of Investment, Trade, and Industry (MITI) conducted a sectoral value chain mapping survey in Narok and Kajiado Counties under the Kenya Industry and Entrepreneurship Project (KIEP), funded by the World Bank Group. The survey assessed the status, gaps, and technology needs within the dairy, beef, and leather value chains, focusing on innovation and productivity. Recommendations for improving the value chains and promoting enterprise growth in these sectors are provided in this brief.

Methodology

The survey data involved literature reviews, structured interviews, focus group discussions, site visits, observational techniques, data analysis, and stakeholder consultations to understand and address challenges in Narok and Kajiado County's agricultural and livestock sectors

Findings

- The main activities in the dairy value chain within Narok and Kajiado counties is milk collection and aggregation, preservation through cooling with minimal value addition to the collected milk
- The value chain is dominated by small scale farmers rearing local indigenous breeds mainly through free range grazing and nomadic practices.
- The farmers migrate their animals based on availability of feeds and water resulting in fluctuations in milk supply.

- Across both counties, gaps were identified in terms of technology, technology use and skills that give areas of intervention in order to boost the dairy value chain in these counties.

Identified Gaps in Value Chains

The following challenges were identified:

1. Dairy Value Chain



- Inadequate infrastructure for preservation of milk
- Limited quality control and hygiene practices
- Limited product diversification in the dairy sector
- Low adoption of renewable energy technologies in the value chains
- Low knowledge and skills in value addition technologies

2. Beef Value Chain



- Inadequate infrastructure for slaughter e.g. abattoirs and cold storage facilities
- Limited veterinary services including meat inspection
- Inadequate waste management practices
- Limited access to markets
- Limited value addition and product diversification
- Limited uptake of value addition technologies

3.

Leather Value Chain



- Low quality of hides and skins
- Inadequate infrastructure for leather processing and leather goods manufacture
- Underutilized indigenous knowledge in value addition
- Inadequate skills and knowledge on value addition
- Low uptake of value addition technologies in the value chain
- High cost of inputs e.g. machinery and processing chemicals

Policy Brief Recommendations

1. Dairy value chain

- Investment in infrastructure for value addition of milk and milk products – establishment of CAIPs: aggregation and processing centers for dairy and dairy products
- Investment in new technologies and skills development: upgrade technology supply, and improve technical, value addition and management skills along the dairy value chain.
- Training and capacity building in quality control: - Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), Good Hygiene Practices (GHP) and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP)
- Awareness creation and training on sustainable energy sources and waste management practices
- Empower gender roles: Acknowledge and support the different roles of men and women in the beef and milk value chains to promote inclusivity.

2. Beef Value Chain

- Investment in value addition infrastructure including modern abattoirs and cold storage facilities
- Training and capacity building on technologies for value addition and product diversification

- Enhance provision of veterinary services including human resources
- Awareness creation on market linkages, training on digital marketing and business management.

3. Leather Value Chain

- Training and capacity building on good animal husbandry practices, animal slaughter, flaying techniques, and hides and skins preservation methods
- Investment in infrastructure for value addition e.g. CAIPs: on leather processing and leather goods manufacture – tanneries, machinery for leather processing, Common Manufacturing Facilities (CMF)
- Sensitization, document, protect and commercialize indigenous knowledge in value addition
- Encourage local fabrication and manufacture of input materials such as machinery, equipment, tools and chemicals

4. Cross-cutting recommendations

- Enhance access to finance through grants and affordable credit facilities for MSMEs to acquire necessary technologies and infrastructure.

References

1. Livestock Value Chains in Kajiado and Narok Counties Report, 2024
2. Kajiado County Integrated Development Plan 2023-2027
3. County Integrated Development Plan for Narok County 2023 - 2027

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