Livestock Sub Sector
Opportunities and challenges

By Agricultural Consultative Forum
Introduction

- We have an endowment: land, water, climate
- Agriculture is economic priority #1
- Livestock sub-sector in Zambia contributes 35% to the Agricultural Gross Domestic Product & 18% to the National GDP.
- Zambia’s per capita meat consumption is 2.4Kg (beef, pork and poultry) which is low compared to other African countries at 5.6Kg.
- Milk consumption levels in Zambia is also low at 26 litres per capita compared to the recommended FAO requirements of 200 litres per capita.
- Livestock sector faces serious problems despite the existing plans and policies (Livestock Development Plan, the National Agricultural Policy, the Strategic Paper and the Action Plan, NAIP under CAADP).

QUESTION

- Much of Government support has been to Maize, and little on livestock, why?
- How can Zambia develop its livestock sub sector?
Role that the livestock sub sector plays in Zambia

- Livestock 35% to the Agricultural Gross Domestic Product & 18% to the National GDP.
- Employment creation. The livestock industry contributes to employment creation. Available statistics indicates that nearly half of the rural households (approximately 310,000) own livestock (excluding poultry). About 25% of these rural households own cattle and about (2/3), which is approximately 780,000 rural households own poultry.
- Income generation of rural households: For many rural communities (about 39%) cattle and goats provide a significant income source to immediate income needs for households and school fees for children.
- Meeting nutritional requirements particularly milk and meat for protein;
- Offers source of organic fertilizer to poor farmers who cannot afford artificial fertilizer;
- Provides alternative and cost effective transport to rural communities
- Plays a role in providing safeguards or adaptation to environmental and climate change impacts
Key Challenges

- Limited availability of high quality breeding stock
- Disease outbreaks
- Availability of good quality water for animals
- Availability of cheap feedstock has been an area of concern to many farmers
- Energy challenges (costs and consistent supply) for poultry production
- Poor research and extension support on livestock production
- Inadequate input support to livestock farmers
Recommendations

Investments in the livestock sub sector has not been rising as expected. We have not put up certain things right.

- Policy and legal framework on livestock required…
- Establish and operationalize through public private partnership livestock service centers; breeding centers; milk collection centers; genetic resource centre (gene bank) and other infrastructure
- Undertake restocking of livestock in areas where these were wiped out by diseases
- Source genetically superior breeding stock to improve the local breeds
- Facilitate controlled grazing and improved pastures
- Increase animal feed/folder production
- Roll out the livestock Information Management system
- Strengthen the Veterinary Services through the Veterinary Council
- Support to training in laboratory diagnostics and Laboratory data management
- Support to Extension officers in the provision of extension services