



UNIVERSITY OF HOHENHEIM

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AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (490c)

Examining Livestock Development and Giving Recommendations to Develop the Livestock Sector in Zambia

A master thesis by

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Abstract

Livestock has a significant impact on food security and poverty reduction. The aim of this thesis is, to provide literature that helps policy and decision makers to make suitable and sustainable decisions to develop the livestock sector in Zambia. The goal is, to get different stakeholder's perspective in the livestock sector and identify the major trends, changes and pathways including their trade-offs in the four dimensions of sustainability laid out by the Sustainability Assessment of Food and Agricultural Systems (SAFA), namely Good Governance, Environmental Integrity, Economical Resilience and Social Well-Being. At the end of 2021, a three-month qualitative research took place in Southern Province of Zambia (Namwala and Mazabuka district), where 5 Focus Group Discussion, 4 Timeline Activities, 12 Homestead Interviews and 15 Expert Interviews took place. Focus was on cattle and other livestock species including goats, sheep and pigs. Results show, that changes happened in the Distribution of livestock, Species diversity, Land-use-practices, Management approaches, Extension services, Animal health, Social, economic and institutional dynamics and Climate and environment. Furthermore, identified pathways of livestock development are the diversification into goats, the specification into dairy as well as the accumulation of cattle. On top of this, main trade-offs occurring from these pathways have a social and economic dimension and are not being addressed in the current livestock policy. On the whole, diversification into keeping goats and specification into dairy have less trade-offs than the pathway of accumulating cattle. The paper concludes with policy recommendations mainly by recommending to support the pathways of diversification into keeping goats and the specification into dairy. Additionally, recommendations are that money needs to be allocated in the livestock sector, effective control and monitoring instruments need to be introduced to reduce displacement of tax money and R & D and extension services need to be expanded.

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