

This publication presents findings of a rapid appraisal of institutions supporting livestock trade and marketing in Somalia. The study was carried to: identify institutions supporting livestock trade and marketing in the country; evaluate the roles played by these institutions in facilitating livestock trade and marketing information flow; application of grades and standards in livestock trade, and livestock export marketing promotional activities; assess the level of networking among these institutions while facilitating livestock export trade and marketing; analyze constraints faced by these institutions in executing their activities. It was anticipated that this will be useful in designing supportive infrastructure to enable them play an effective role in improving livestock trade and marketing through enhanced accountability and competence. Emphasis was put on organizations involved in livestock marketing information flow, application of grades and standards in livestock products, and, livestock export promotion. This study identified some forms of organizations supporting livestock export trade in Somalia, viz. brokers, veterinary services delivery systems, port authorities, livestock shipping firms, money transfer services, local government and regional administrations that were in-charge of livestock markets, central government, and a variety of private traders associations. These organisations supported the principal market participants: the small-scale traders, agents of exporters, and exporters in their trial to make effective livestock export trade. The organizations operated under a set of rules and procedures that influenced their activities in facilitating livestock. However, it was noted that there was limited capacity to enforce adherence to some of the rules and regulations by these organizations. This appraisal recognized that although there exist informal grading system based on a number of attributes (age of animal, sex of animal, nutritional status, weight and size, breed and health status), none of the identified institutions was engaged in overt activities to develop further and publicize application of these grades in livestock trade. This was noted to persist despite the general knowledge that suitable grading would significantly promote trade. This appraisal established that currently, the main centre of attention of the public sector is at the ports of exit. In these ports, the government implements a rudimentary animal health certification system, based on clinical inspection of animals prior to loading. There are also some instances of monitoring in some of the secondary markets. Implementation of an effective health and certification system is constrained by limited capacity, both human and physical within the respective institutions and by the absence of a central veterinary administration that is recognized internationally. These constraints need urgent redress to guarantee participation in livestock export trade by Somali traders. It is important to note that a certification system put in place should also be cost effective and easy to apply in order to be sustainable.