

## 29<sup>TH</sup> ANIMAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

### SAHEL CONSULTING-LED PANEL RECOMMENDATION BRIEF

#### INTRODUCTION

On Tuesday, July 9<sup>th</sup> 2024, President Bola Ahmad Tinubu announced the creation of the Federal Ministry of Livestock Development. The President has since inaugurated the Presidential Livestock Reforms Implementation Committee, which has the key mandate of developing strategies, models, and masterplans required to transform the livestock sector into an economically viable and sustainable agricultural subsector.

With Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation funding, Sahel Consulting Agriculture and Nutrition Limited is implementing a 5-year Dairy Development Project across Kaduna, Kano, Plateau, Jigawa, Adamawa, Bauchi, and Taraba States. ALDDN is catalyzing the emergence of a vibrant local dairy sector in an inclusive way that improves the livelihoods, productivity, nutrition, and empowerment of smallholder women dairy farmers and the communities in which they live. As part of ALDDN's efforts to promote multi-stakeholder collaboration and showcase the possibilities that public-private partnerships can bring to livestock development, Sahel Consulting participated in the 29<sup>th</sup> Animal Science Association of Nigeria Annual National Conference to lead a panel discussion.

The panel tagged "Formalization of the Livestock Value Chain, a Key Driver for Food Systems Development" discussed the issues surrounding livestock development and recommended actionable next steps to achieve sustainable livestock development in the wake of the newly pronounced Ministry of Livestock Development.

The panelists include Mrs Winnie Lai-Solarin, The Director of Animal Husbandry Services at the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Professor Olusegun Osinowo, The Executive Director of Abass Ranch, Abeokuta, Ogun State, and Dr Ibrahim Yusuf, a Consultant at Sahel Consulting Agriculture and Nutrition Limited. The panellists brought a wealth of experience from academics, industry, and policy perspectives.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

##### 1. Strategic Stakeholder Engagement

The prosperity and sustainability of the livestock subsector depend on the quality of engagement of stakeholders. To achieve a sustainable and formalized livestock sector, livestock stakeholders across the value chain at the Federal, State, and Local Government levels must be harmonized to work in synergy.

The new Ministry of Livestock Development should;

- Prioritize stakeholder mapping along livestock value chains, including, but not limited to, producers, aggregators, marketers, processors, quality and standard controllers, development partners, etc.
- Empower the identified value chain actors through tailored interventions to form a functioning group/cooperative that can access local and international markets and access support from the government, private sector, and development partners.
- Strengthen the existing livestock product and process regulators and standardization agencies by expanding their scope along the value chain to ensure that the quality and standards of products and processes align with national and international standards.

These stakeholders' engagement strategies will drive the formalization and quality standard of the sector's value chain.

## **2. Strategic response to the progressive increase in the price of feed ingredients**

Feed ingredients account for up to 70% and 20% of monogastric and ruminant production costs, respectively. The shortage of local production of some critical feed ingredients, such as soybean, maize, fishmeal, premix, minerals, etc., has led to the importation of these feed ingredients. The steady increase in importation is directly proportional to the increase in feed ingredient prices, hence increasing the prices of livestock products.

Increasing feed ingredient prices can be managed through:

- Provision of tailored support to industry and academic professionals with knowledge of feed ingredients production (i.e., vitamins, premix, minerals, pelletized floating aquatic livestock feeds, etc.). Supporting the local production of these feed ingredients will discourage the importation of these ingredients and relieve the strain on the Naira.
- Encourage young animal science graduates to venture into feed and fodder production through tailored capacity development, input, and market access support.

## **3. Leveraging academic research to foster livestock development**

Livestock research institutes and higher learning institutions are critical stakeholders in livestock development that are often overlooked. These stakeholders hold the key to sustainable livestock transformation through innovative research.

The proposed Ministry of Livestock Development should;

- Establish research linkages with all livestock research institutions. The ministry should dedicate a unit to participate in the research process and identify valuable research for National livestock development.
- Privatize government-owned research institutions to ensure adequate funding and sustainability.
- Engage young animal science graduates to grow produce feed ingredients that are imported and unavailable.
- Engage livestock feed production and processing stakeholders, including the Feed Industry Practitioners Association of Nigeria, to develop strategies to enhance the production of feed ingredients.
- Engage interested individuals to commercialize fodder production to improve ruminants' access to quality all-year-round feed.

## **4. Leveraging the ALDDN's proof of concept to advance the Nigerian livestock development**

The Advancing Local Dairy Development in Nigeria has proven that linking smallholder livestock producers to processors through tailored interventions can strengthen the productivity and formalization of the livestock value chain.

The proposed Ministry of Livestock Development can leverage ALDDN's proof of concept to formalize the livestock value chains through;

- Incentivizing the formation of groups and strengthening the groups through strategic capacity development and leadership support interventions and linking them with other actors that require their product or services.
- Facilitating capacity development initiatives to improve livestock business development along the value chain (i.e., production, value addition, marketing, aggregation, storage, and transportation).

These efforts will encourage the proper channelling of capacity development efforts, infrastructure support, productivity improvement interventions, and financial inclusion services through established groups and cooperatives by interested private entities, government institutions, and development partners.

#### **5. Effective livestock policy/strategy/framework/roadmap implementation strategies**

The effective implementation of policies, strategies, frameworks, and roadmaps is critical to achieving a sustainable short and long-term livestock development goal. To achieve sustainable livestock development long-term goals, the Ministry of Livestock Development should;

- Retain and modify all the existing units under the Department of Animal Husbandry Services and the Department of Veterinary and Pest Control Services to accommodate all livestock value chains as an independent department.
- Adopt an innovative department structuring system that will drive the impact of livestock development. The ministry should create livestock production, livestock services, and program coordinating units to streamline livestock development activities.
- Provide adequate human, financial, and infrastructural resources to run the departments and units.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The submission of the inception report by the Presidential Livestock Reforms Implementation Committee has set a good precedent for livestock development. While the inception report contains roadmaps, programs, and strategies geared towards sustainable livestock development, all stakeholders, including the private sector and development partners, must develop short-term and ambitious long-term livestock development goals to achieve the National Livestock Development Goals. To achieve these goals, livestock development stakeholders should align their scope and interventions with the National Livestock Development goals.

Sahel Consulting Agriculture and Nutrition Limited is open to partnership and committed to developing the national livestock sub-sector through our dedicated team of experts, innovative and strategic approach to problem-solving, and experience in the livestock industry.