



# AFRICA SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK 2050

The future of livestock in

# BURKINA FASO

Emerging public health risks in urban and peri-urban areas

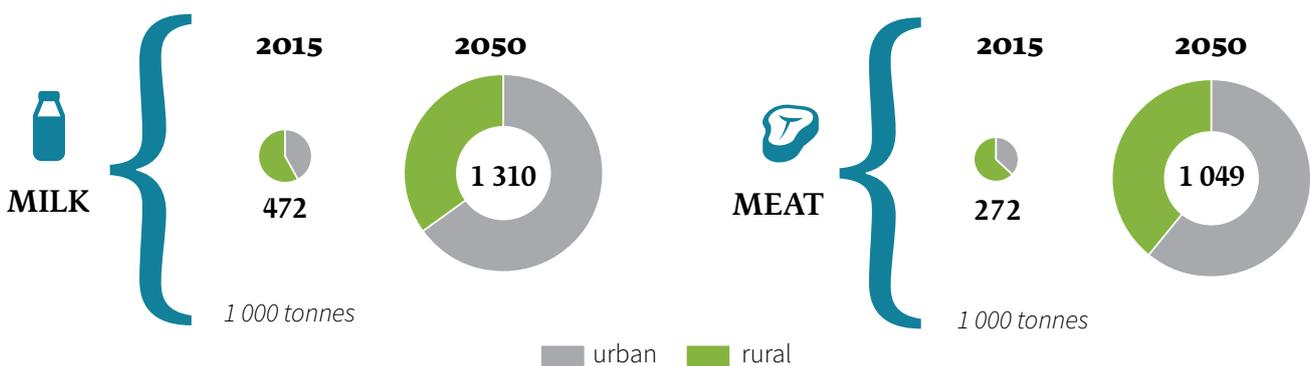
## Burkina Faso's livestock sector growth and transformation

Population growth, urbanization and economic development will extensively transform Burkina Faso's society and its livestock sector in the next three decades. With the objective to guide policy decisions for a sustainable future, the government of Burkina Faso and the FAO have joined forces to discuss the possible long-term development trajectories of the livestock sector and the associated opportunities and challenges for society, such as poverty reduction, increased food security, environmental degradation and food-borne diseases. One issue, currently at the margin of the policy debate, emerged during the discussion: the increased relevance of urban and peri-urban livestock operations and value chains, and the associated systemic risk of zoonotic diseases and livestock-driven antimicrobial resistance.

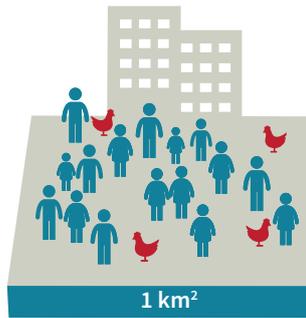
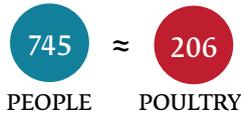
## Public health threats amidst urbanizing livestock value chains

### LIVESTOCK CONSUMPTION AND LIVESTOCK MARKETS URBANIZE

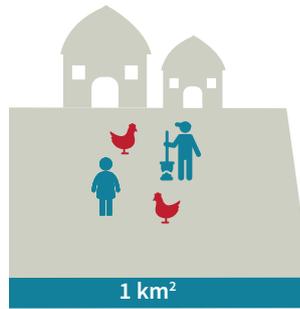
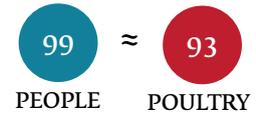
Between 2015 and 2050, Burkina Faso's population will more than double and reach about 45 million people. By 2050, the number of people living in cities and towns will have increased from 28 percent today to 50 percent, that is the urban population will increase from 5 million to 22 million in the next decades. Meat and milk consumption will increase by about 775 and 835 thousand tonnes, respectively, and in 2050 urban consumers will contribute about 61 and 65 percent to total meat and milk consumption, respectively, vis-à-vis 37 and 42 percent today.



## Centre region



## Other regions



### LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION AND VALUE CHAINS URBANIZE

As cities and towns expand, livestock production systems, and more so livestock markets, will be increasingly structured to satisfy the demand for animal source foods of urban dwellers. As Burkina Faso's rural infrastructure is still to be fully developed, in the next few decades the production of perishable livestock products will tend to move closer to consumption, with an increased number of market-oriented livestock operators emerging in peri-urban and urban areas. Already today, livestock density in and around urban areas is as much as high as in rural areas. According to the latest livestock and population census data, for example, in the Centre Region, where the capital city of Ouagadougou is located, the density of both people and poultry is higher than in all other Regions of the country.

### ZOONOTIC DISEASES

High density of people and animals in and around cities and towns will create environmental and public health challenges, because of novel and more frequent interactions between humans, livestock and wildlife in a resource-constrained natural environment. In particular, an outbreak of a (re)-emerging zoonotic disease (EZD) that jumps from animals to humans not only might negatively impact the livestock sector but also result in a high human death toll with broader disruptive impact on society, thereby jeopardizing the entire development trajectory of Burkina Faso. In the worst-case scenario, it might turn into a pandemic, such as COVID-19.

### ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

Because of the growing risk of EZDs and increased competition to access limited natural resources in densely populated urban and peri-urban areas, livestock producers might be tempted to use antibiotics imprudently, such as for prophylaxis. This, in the medium to long term, will increase the risk of livestock-driven antimicrobial resistance in humans, potentially comprising the country's ability to treat common infectious diseases, resulting in prolonged human illness, disability and death.

### The way forward: urban and peri-urban livestock sector policies

Urban and peri-urban livestock farming and value chain should become a key component of all livestock-related policies and plans and should also have a specific focus on the prevention, detection and control of zoonoses, including (re)emerging zoonotic diseases. The government of Burkina Faso and the FAO are supporting a One Health multi-disciplinary multi-stakeholder process to enhance the country capacity to deal with livestock-related public health threats.

The adoption of good practices along the urban and peri-urban livestock value chain to detect, prevent and control public health risks is a precondition for the sustainable development of the livestock sector, and of Burkina Faso's society as a whole.

#### Bibliography:

- FAO. 2019. *Le devenir de l'élevage au Burkina Faso. Opportunités et défis face aux incertitudes*. Burkina Faso (available at <http://www.fao.org/3/ca4952fr/ca4952fr.pdf>)
- Statistics elaborated by the FAO Animal Production and Health Division based on data sourced from the FAO Global Perspectives Studies (<http://www.fao.org/global-perspectives-studies/en/>), the Burkina Faso "Institut national de la statistique et de la Démographie" (INSD) ([www.insd.bf](http://www.insd.bf)) and the World Bank Global Consumption database (<http://datatopics.worldbank.org/consumption>).

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