

Comments from the Africa Regional Group

The Role of Other Livestock Forms Such as Micro-Livestock, Insects and Domestication of Game: CFS HLPE on Sustainable Agricultural Development for Food Security and Nutrition: What Roles for Livestock?

The ARG takes note of the definition/characterization of livestock in Footnote 2 on page 13 of the Report and wish to make the following observations:

1. The definition conforms to the general definition and held view of what livestock is. The additional text to the general definition indicates “other useful animals kept or raised on-farm”. For the purposes of our work in the CFS and in the face of a changing dynamics however, we are of the opinion that it is important to consider all forms of Animal Source Food (ASF).
2. Micro-livestock constitutes the non-conventional livestock forms most of which are taken from the wild and kept as food sources. This practice of extracting from the wild and keeping on-farm, complements the practice of direct hunting of game for immediate consumption and trading.
3. The essential contribution of wildlife to the food security and nutrition of many people worldwide, especially people living in urban and rural areas, is adequately documented. In the Congo Basin of Africa alone, bush-meat consumption is estimated to be over four million tonnes per year, serving as the main type of meat available to many. Issues of conservation and sustainability may therefore arise and hence the need to pay attention to this important ASF which is an alternative to mainstream everyday livestock forms that the report focuses on.
4. The linkage of wildlife to livestock diseases, especially, zoonotic diseases which has been covered in the report, makes it vital for consideration and inclusion in the discussion.
5. Similarly, the linkage of wildlife to animal genetic resources is so important in the sustainable maintenance of livestock species and therefore cannot be overlooked.
6. Insects have been labeled by the FAO as the ‘Six-legged Livestock’ and the contribution of various insect species to the food and nutrition of many people is also well documented. Indeed, various insect species are used as food sources especially in Africa and Asia and considered an important alternative to mainstream livestock forms. It is on record that in America, insects are being raised in large quantities for food which are served in restaurants. There is currently also, a strong push in Europe for the use of insects as a protein component of livestock feed. Farming of these insects will retain the sustainability of the ecosystem while providing many members of ASF. These illustrations therefore make a strong case for the consideration of edible insects in the discussion.