



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

AFRICA SUSTAINABLE LIVESTOCK 2050

Implementing livestock sector policies, laws and regulations

*Milestones for an evidence based
multi-stakeholder dialogue*

Policy implementation is local

Livestock sector policies, laws and regulations provide the overarching framework that guides the development and transformation of livestock. They represent society's vision for the livestock sector and point to investments and behaviours, of both public and private sector stakeholders, anticipated to support its sustainable development.

The national or central government formulates livestock sector policies, laws and regulations. Local governments, in most countries, are responsible for their implementation and enforcement on the ground. The rationale is that, as local contexts are heterogeneous, public expenditure and implementation modalities decided by a level of government close to the ground better reflect local conditions and, as such, are more effective.

Local governments, in many cases, do not receive any systematic guidance or support to implement policies, laws and regulations, which often remain poorly implemented. This brief presents the foundations for an **evidence based multi-stakeholder dialogue aimed at facilitating the enforcement of laws and regulations on biosecurity practices along the livestock value chain**. Laws and regulations are one of the tools, along with recurrent and investment expenditures, the government can rely upon to implement livestock sector policies.

Evidence for policy implementation

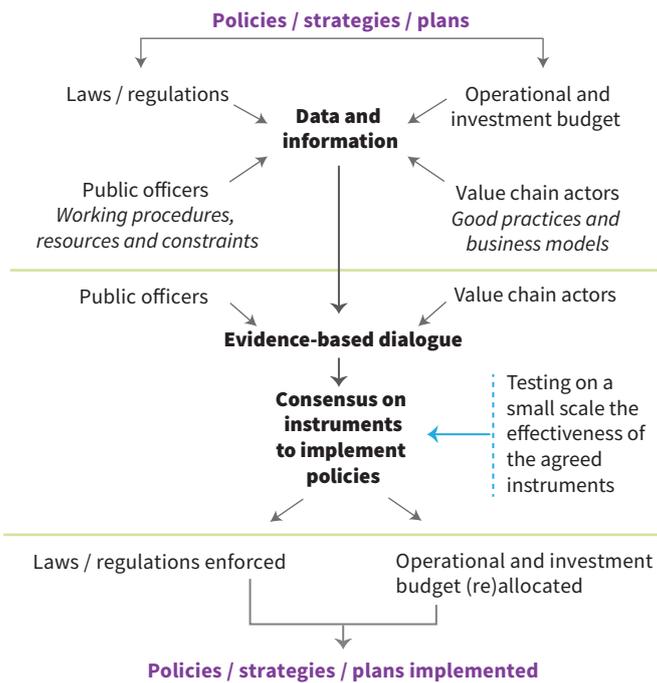
Evidence: Laws and regulations on biosecurity practices

Livestock sector laws and regulations prescribe the behaviour both private and public actors should follow to support policy implementation. **A review of livestock sector laws and regulations on biosecurity practices** – including those that reduce public health threats along the livestock value chain, such as a law that requires livestock farmers to call a public veterinarian anytime they find a dead wild animal on their farm – helps appreciate to what extent the overarching legislative framework targets prevention, detection and control of animal diseases.

Evidence: Biosecurity practices along the livestock value chain

An assessment of the practices currently adopted by livestock stakeholders along the livestock value chain against the biosecurity practices recommended by existing laws and regulations allows appreciating the extent to which the current legislative framework is enforced. For instance, a trader who purchased and transported sick animals to the market would not comply with a law that prescribes all animals on sale to consumers must be in good health. This assessment helps decision-makers identify which behaviour of livestock operators should change to ensure compliance with existing laws and regulations on biosecurity.

Figure 1. An evidence-based multi-stakeholder dialogue on policy implementation



Evidence: Business models along the livestock value chain

The business model of livestock stakeholders along the value chain – including farmers, traders, processors, retailers and other actors – is a description of the activities they perform to combine production inputs, sell goods and services and make a profit. It tells, for example, when, where and how many live animals traders purchase and sell on a weekly basis. **An analysis of the business model of livestock stakeholders** helps understand whether there are opportunities for change that facilitate the adoption of the biosecurity practices prescribed by the existing laws and regulations.

Evidence: Working procedures of frontline public animal health officers

Frontline public animal health officers, such as field veterinarians and meat and market inspectors, play a key role in the enforcement of existing laws and regulations. They regularly interact with private actors along the livestock value chain and, therefore, can recommend stakeholders to comply with the legislation on biosecurity practices. **A review of the working procedures of frontline animal health officers** – that is examining how they act and interact with private actors along the livestock value chain, such as the frequency of their communication with clients and their preferred means of transport – helps understand the challenges they face in liaising with livestock operators and performing their duties.

Evidence: Local government budget

Any action to change the working procedures of frontline public animal health officers, and make animal health services better tailored to needs of clients, involves capital (investment) and recurrent (maintenance) costs, such as one-off trainings and provision of regular transport allowance, respectively. **An assessment of the budget of the local government**, under which frontline animal health officers operate, allows understanding existing constraints and opportunities to make the delivery of animal health services more efficient.

A multi-stakeholder dialogue on policy implementation

A consultative dialogue

- that is structured around evidence and information on (i) livestock sector laws and regulations on biosecurity practices, (ii) the challenges and constraints that prevent livestock operators from adopting biosecurity practices, and (iii) the challenges and constraints the local government faces when providing public goods and services;
- that takes place at local level, where policies, laws and regulations are implemented;
- that engages policy implementers, that is private actors along the value chain and frontline animal health officers, as well as local public authorities, stakeholder associations, finance institutions and other relevant actors;

helps identify procedures that, given existing resource and technical constraints, frontline animal health officers could follow to ensure livestock operators improve their business model and better comply with existing laws and regulations on biosecurity. Local governments may also consider testing any new procedures on a small scale, to generate robust evidence on their feasibility and impact, before implementing them widely.

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