

INTRODUCTION

This is the second FAO publication regarding types and breeds of cattle. The first dealt with *Zebu Cattle of India and Pakistan* (Joshi and Phillips, 1953) and, as was pointed out in the introduction to that publication, FAO has been giving attention to the cataloguing of genetic stocks since 1946. Much of the work has had to do with plant breeding material, particularly rice, wheat and barley, and it has been possible to issue only one publication thus far on genetic stocks of cattle. The lack of detailed information on the genetic traits of cattle was recognized when the first publication was issued, and there are obviously many gaps in existing information. Perhaps one of the most useful purposes of such a publication is to point out the gaps in order that research workers may undertake studies aimed at providing the missing information.

In addition to the over-all objective of cataloguing information on important breeds and types of cattle, in order that it may be generally available to breeders in all countries, it must be recognized that many important native types are in danger of being lost or diluted through the mass introduction of other blood. This problem, in Africa as well as in Asia and the Far East, was recognized at the Meeting on Improving Livestock under Tropical and Subtropical Conditions, which was held in Lucknow, India, in 1950 (Phillips, 1950). At that meeting it was recommended that governments should take steps to preserve such native types even though, in some cases, the animals might be uneconomic but might have potential value for use in breeding experiments.

Subsequent to the Lucknow meeting, FAO took steps to establish an intergovernmental committee to assist in the preparation of material on the indigenous types and breeds of cattle in Africa. The countries which participated in the work of that committee and the men designated to serve on it, are listed as follows:

<i>Country</i>	<i>Representatives</i>
BELGIUM	Dr. R. J. Guyaux Conseiller vétérinaire Direction général du Ministère des colonies Brussels
	Dr. H. R. F. Colback Veterinary Adviser to the Governor-General Léopoldville, Belgian Congo
EGYPT	Dr. A. R. Sidky Director, Animal Breeding Department (now Minister of Agriculture) Ministry of Agriculture, Cairo
FRANCE	Monsieur Feunteun Vétérinaire-Inspecteur général Ministère de la France d'outre-mer Paris
PORTUGAL	Dr. José de Brito Guterres Direcção Geral de Fomento Colonial Ministerio das Colonias, Lisbon
SUDAN (Republic of the)	Mr. J. D. M. Jack Sudan Veterinary Service Khartoum
UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA	Professor J. H. R. Bisschop P. O. Onderstepoorte, Pretoria
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	Mr. G. M. Gates Veterinary Department Kaduna, Nigeria
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Material for the present publication has been assembled from the published literature and from many other sources. Much information has been supplied by correspondents, and the main contributors are listed below, together with the names of the breeds or types upon which they contributed information:

<i>Contributor</i>	<i>Type or Breed</i>
Agricultural Officer Department of Agriculture Bambui, British Cameroons	Adamawa
Agricultural Officer Department of Agriculture Musaia, Sierra Leone	N'Dama
Mr. P. Amegée Chef de la circonscription d'élevage de Sokodé Togo, French West Africa	West African Shorthorn
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Mr. J. D. M. Jack Sudan Veterinary Service Khartoum, Sudan	Northern Sudan Shorthorned Zebu Nilotic Southern Sudan Hill Zebu Toposa-Murle

<i>Contributor</i>	<i>Type or Breed</i>
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Mr. J. McCulloch Department of Animal Health Services Vom, Nigeria	Adamawa
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Dr. J. Politzer Service de l'élevage Lomé, Togo	West African Shorthorn
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Mr. P. J. Sheehy Animal Husbandry Officer Central Research Station, Mazabuka, Northern Rhodesia Service de l'élevage de la Côte-d'Ivoire Ivory Coast, French West Africa	Angoni Barotse N'Dama West African Shorthorn
Service de l'élevage de la Mauritanie Mauritania, French West Africa Service vétérinaire du Congo belge Belgian Congo	Maure Senegal Fulani Lugware Nioka Ankole
Dr. Troquereau Service de l'élevage du Tchad Fort Lamy, French Equatorial Africa	Kuri M'Bororo Shuwa
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The contributions made by these workers are gratefully acknowledged by the authors.

The importance of adaptability to the environment in cattle breeding has been stressed in other FAO publications, including the one dealing with zebu cattle (Joshi and Phillips, 1953), and particularly in an earlier Agricultural Study on the "Breeding of Livestock Adapted to Unfavorable Environments" (Phillips, 1949). Therefore, no detailed discussion of this point will be undertaken here, although it will be recognized by the reader that this importance of adaptability is one of the main considerations which justifies giving attention to the cataloguing of cattle stocks. Many of the existing types of cattle which have been developed in Africa are able to survive and produce reasonably well under the rigorous environmental conditions in which they are maintained. This adaptability may be of value in some cases in other areas having similar conditions, quite apart from its usefulness under present conditions of livestock production in the native homes of the respective breeds or in the development of new types based on crossbreeding between imported and native types.