



Findings reports on ongoing operational, economic and sector work carried out by the World Bank and its member governments in the Africa Region. It is published periodically by the Knowledge Learning Center on behalf of the Region.

Guinea: The Livestock Rehabilitation Project

The Livestock Sector Rehabilitation Project, operational from 1986 through 1995, was seen as essential in facilitating the new government's implementation of its economic strategy when it came to office in 1984. Previous government policy had required that 10 percent of all herds be sold at a fixed price through the State Cattle Marketing Agency, encobe. This caused many herders to emigrate and hide their animals in forests or outside the country. In addition, poor animal health represented a severe constraint to agricultural productivity and growth on which approximately 30 percent of the country's rural population (160,000 families) depended.

All the livestock sector reforms took place within the context of a major overhaul of the National Livestock Directorate. As a condition of credit effectiveness for World Bank assistance and in line with the government's new macroeconomic policies, Livestock Directorate staff were reduced by two-thirds $\frac{3}{4}$ some 1,200 employees were let go. Those remaining were required to re-qualify for their positions through training in other countries.

The three macro components of the project were:

- Support for the privatization of the livestock service through the establishment of herders' associations; the creation of a Veterinary Input Supply Center (CAVET; Centrale d'Approvisionnement Vétérinaire) for the production, purchase, and distribution and sale of livestock inputs, and the provision of a pilot credit component to establish private veterinary practices, animal production farms, herders' associations, and a system of distribution of livestock inputs.
- Strengthening of the National Livestock Directorate (DNE).
- Provision of technical assistance and training.

Impact on the Ground

- The most significant achievement was the creation of 240 herders' associations and the training of more than 1,000 veterinary auxiliaries, the majority of whom belonged to herders' families.
- Another important achievement was the restoration of trust between the government and the large number of herders who had fled the country during the previous regime. More than 600,000 head of cattle are estimated to have returned as a result of the government's new liberalization policy. The census revealed a 66.8 percent increase in bovines and a 8.9 percent increase in herders over the 1988–95 period.
- Improvement in the country's general sociopolitical conditions also resulted in the liberalization of cattle marketing; and more reliable livestock data.
- The training program helped promote a better understanding of the problems affecting livestock and gave a certain amount of autonomy to the herders to carry out some of the animal health program such as vaccinations, drenching and animal disease prevention. Technical assistance was an essential component, particularly the lessons learned and expertise transferred from the Central African Republic where a similar livestock project had been successfully implemented.
- A symbol of the project's success and a reflection of the strength of ownership was the development of a National Livestock Fair by the herders, which has attracted participants from around the country and received extensive press coverage.
- Restructuring and trimming of the DNE has resulted in a more committed work force.

Lessons Learned

- The project reflected the development gains possible through the government's genuine commitment to its reform objectives and a good working relationship between the borrower and co-financiers. Joint supervision missions were carried out with the participation of a number of donors and non-governmental organizations.
- An important component for success was the development of ownership by stakeholder groups. Because the project was focused on livestock, the herders' organizations and the government agency responsible for implementation, along with the veterinarians, were able to build on common interests.

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