Status of development of animal identification, traceability and recording systems in different commodity chains (beef, dairy, small ruminants) in Namibia

Symposium on Animal identification and recording (AIR) systems for traceability and livestock development in sub-Saharan Africa
14-16 April 2014
Pretoria, South Africa
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Republic of Namibia
Directorate of Veterinary Services
Production & Marketing

- Livestock Population
  - 4.0 million herd of cattle – Beef predominantly
  - 6.0 million sheep – Mostly Dorper
  - 3.2 million goats – Mostly crossbreeds

- Meat Exports
  - Export 80% of meat
  - ~9380 t beef - EU
  - ~303130kg Beef - RSA
  - ~9197363kg Lamb - RSA
  - ~490t lamb - Norway

- Live Exports - RSA
  - 100211 cattle – RSA
  - 157141 sheep – RSA
  - 163565 goats - RSA
Animal Identification and Recording Systems

A. Namibian Livestock Identification and Traceability system (NamLITS)

B. National Beef Performance Recording Scheme

C. Namibia Stud Breeders Association (NSBA) Stud Book & Breedplan Performance Recording System
Implementation History

A. NamLITS – built on a long-existing (late 1960s) animal movement control system. Enhancement started October 2005 extended to rest of the country October 2013.

B. National Beef Performance Recording Scheme – started in the early 1960s as the only official/national recording scheme

C. NSBA Stud Book and Breedplan – founded in 1992 to manage the registration of pedigree animals. Took over most of the registration in 2000 and started with Breedplan in early 2006
Purposes of the Identification and Recording Systems

A. NamLITS – compliance with EU requirements and animal disease risk management. Validate the Farm Assured Namibian Meat Scheme (FAN Meat Scheme)

B. National Beef Performance Recording Scheme – improve productivity of the national beef herd through genetic improvement

C. NSBA, Stud Book and Breedplan – registration of pedigree animals and genetic evaluation – cattle, sheep, goats and horses
Legal Framework

A. NamLITS

B. National Beef Performance Recording Scheme
   – Stud Breeders Association regulations 2004

C. NSBA Stud Book and Breedplan
   – Stud Breeders Association regulations 2004
Coverage of the systems

A. NamLITS – national mandatory program. Currently implemented in the FMD-free zone. To be extended to the rest of the country soon.

B. National Beef Performance Recording Scheme – national but limited to stud animals. Only 27 breeders, 8 breeds only. Coverage is currently very poor. Not compulsory

C. NSBA Stud Book and Breedplan – national but limited to stud animals. Coverage is currently in commercial ranching areas. Not compulsory
Geographic Coverage
Organisational Set-up

A. NamLITS – Jointly managed by the Directorate of Veterinary Services and the Meat Board. Overseen by government and industry (FAN Meat Scheme)

B. National Beef Performance Recording Scheme – run by a Performance Recording Section of the Ministry of Agriculture

C. NSBA Stud Book and Breedplan – run by the NSBA, an association made up of 28 breeders’ societies
Identification – Ownership

Cattle Identification
- Branding
- Herd Identification
- by 6 months of age
- Ensures batch traceability
Identification – Ownership

Small Stock Identification
- Option 1 - Ear Tattoo Flock ID
- Option 2 - Flock ID tag
- by 3 months of age
- Group identification
- Ensures batch traceability
Cattle Identification – Traceability
How does the system work?

Key Components
- On-farm Identification
- Tagging at crush pens
- Movement permit
- Movement Registers
- Reporting Movements
- Recordkeeping
- Central Database
ID and Recording Operations

ID and Recording Operations

B. National Beef Performance Recording Scheme – ID done by keepers. Paper-based recording of events by keepers – registration, births notification, performance etc. Records captured onto central database by Performance Recording section

NamLITS® NETWORK

SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

WEB SERVER
APPLICATION SERVER
DATABASE SERVER

Farmer
Auctioneers
Trace Office
State Vet Office
Border Post
Abattoir
Funding Framework

A. NamLITS – ID equipment and devices bought by keepers except in NCA. Recording costs borne by keepers and markets. Database funded through levies and government recurrent budget. Central distribution of tags south of a VCF.

B. National Beef Performance Recording Scheme – ID equipment and devices bought by keepers. Recording costs borne by keepers. Database funded through government recurrent budget. This is regarded as a ‘free’ service

C. NSBA Stud Book and Breedplan – ID equipment and devices bought by breeders. Recording costs borne by breeders. Breeders pay annual subscription membership fees, fee for services such as registration and fee per animal recorded
Monitoring and Evaluation

A. NamLITS – done internally on a quarterly basis. Exposed to EC FVO inspections after every 2 years. Ad-hoc inspection by countries intending to trade with Namibia.

B. National Beef Performance Recording Scheme – Currently no evaluation system exists

C. NSBA Stud Book and Breedplan – Currently no evaluation system exists
Progress Assessment

A. NamLITS – significant progress made recognised by the EC FVO

B. National Beef Performance Recording Scheme – reduced capacity resulted in breeders opting to go it alone

C. NSBA Stud Book and Breedplan – the implementation and support from breeders has been generally very successful. Program is well-run using standard commercial practice
Challenges

A. NamLITS

- High operating costs
- Timeliness of reporting events
- Technical field support
- Transcription errors
- Legal framework
- Inadequate extension
- Monitoring & evaluation
Challenges

B. National Beef Performance Recording Scheme –
- Lack publicity
- Human resources
- Funding

C. NSBA Stud Book and Breedplan –
- Funding
- Publicity
THANK YOU!!