"SOWELPA"

South West Livestock Professional Association

Optimizing livestock health and production

Introduction

- Due the destruction of the Somalia Livestock health care system since late 1989, there are few remnants of the pervious structures. All the livestock health institutions of the state were totally looted, additionally livestock health manpower has been displaced and as significant proportion of the professionally trained staff either left the country or remained unemployed.
- As a result of the livestock communicable diseases increased tremendously in the whole country, particularly the most livestock densely populated regions in the southwestern of the state namely **Bay, Bakool, Gedo, Middle Juba, Lower Juba and Lower Shabelle Regions.**

Introduction

- International and UN agencies intervened to address the veterinary crises in the southwestern part of Somalia. This intervention helped stabilize the urgent livestock problems and was effectively supported by available veterinary professionals in each area.
- Actually, Southwestern Somalia is abundant in livestock such as cattle, camels, goats, and sheep. The region also has rich marine resources, and natural resources like grazing fields, water catchments, and expansive farming areas in the Jubba and Shabelle villages.

Introduction

- The communities in this area heavily depend on livestock for 80% of their income. However, due to the collapse of the central administration, the lack of veterinary services has led to significant livestock loss and a decline in local livelihood.
- In the 1960s, the global community fought to eradicate Rinderpest, a devastating cattle disease. By the 1990s, the disease had been wiped out/eradicated worldwide, except in Somalia, due to the country's on-going conflicts. It was realized that supporting local livestock professional associations was the key to permanently eradicating Rinderpest
- To address this, local livestock professionals have formed the first regional associations

- In 2002 five Livestock Professional Associations were formed, after Somalia divided into five zones and associations were named as follows:

1. Southwest Livestock Professional Association (SOWELPA),
2. Puntland Livestock Professional Association (PULPA)
3. United Livestock Professional Association (ULPA)
4. Central Livestock Professional Association (CERELPA)
5. Benadir Livestock Professional Association (BENALPA)

Introduction

- On April 2002, SOWELPA (South West Livestock Professional Association) was formed with an objective of reviving livestock essential service delivery in the zone.
- SOWELPA was officially registered member of Somalia Livestock association Network and the ministry of Livestock and animal husbandry. it's also registered with partner UN and international NGOs involved on the development of livestock sector
- SOWELPA main office is in Baidoa town as its operational headquarters

Areas of operation

- SOWELPA operates six regions in the southwestern namely Bay, Bakool, Gedo, Middle Juba, Lower Juba and Lower Shabelle Regions of Somalia.

Members of the association

- Veterinarian, and Vet assistance

Introduction

- With the support of FAO , INGO's, the LPAs has successfully eradicated Rinderpest disease in 2010 in Somalia.
- 2017 With the support of FAO Somalia the LPAs managed to reach 76% of heard immunity against PPR Diseases/scientific paper was published on the same year, the first country in Africa to report such achievement despite all the challenges in Somalia

Activities SOWELPA delivers

1. Livestock health services (disease treatments, disease control, disease prevention/vaccination, awareness creation on disease recognition, control and prevention, disease surveillance and disease diagnostic and confirmation services).
2. Water and feed provision during emergencies
3. Animal destocking during droughts
4. Animal restocking during post droughts
5. Training community Animal Health Workers (CAHWs) and empowering by networking livestock professionals and drug suppliers to deliver services insecure and remote areas.
6. Capacity building for livestock sector livestock production, water management, fodder production, milk, meat product processing to add value, cooperative formation and the benefits of the cooperation

Role AND IMPORTANCE of the Association

- Advocacy and Representation: serve as the collective voice of members, advocating for their interests and influencing policy decisions at local, regional, and national levels.
- Information and Education: provide with up-to-date information, and resources on best practices, market trends, and regulatory changes. organize workshops, seminars, and training programs to enhance the knowledge and skills
- Risk Management: assist in managing risks associated with livestock production, such as disease outbreaks, natural disasters, and market fluctuations.
- Knowledge Sharing: facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practices among pastoralists.
- Traditional knowledge and expertise related to livestock rearing, disease control, breeding, and animal husbandry can be shared within the community.

Cooperation

- We work closely with Federal Government, regional administration ,UN bodies ,INGo’s

Research farm

- SOWELPA has established a fodder production farm spanning 4 hectares, prepared the land and planted various types of fodder seeds.
- These include brachiaria, Sudan grass, alfalfa, and super napier grass.
- Throughout the process, SOWELPA has diligently documented important information such as the required quantity of water, the time it takes for each grass variety to grow, and the quality of the produced fodder.
- By keeping records of these details, SOWELPA aims to effectively manage and monitor the growth and characteristics of each type of grass.

challenges

- Livestock disease outbreaks and increased vector population hinders the development of the livestock sector
- Bans on Somalia livestock trade further impede sector development
- Lack of infrastructure, including water storage facilities, livestock markets, and veterinary services
- Recurrent droughts and Locust invasion
- Antibiotic Resistance: The misuse and overuse of antibiotics in livestock production contribute to the development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria, compromising the effectiveness of these drugs in human and veterinary medicine.
- Market Volatility: The livestock sector is vulnerable to market fluctuations, including changes in feed prices, consumer demand and can affect the profitability of livestock producers, especially small-scale farmers.

Photos for the activities

Livestock treatment activities

SOWELPA
GPS Map
Camera Lite

CRISES RECOVERY PROJECT

Slaughter destocking activities

CAHWs training

Fodder production