



- **Laboratories:** They are crucial to provide diagnostic results, with identifier, the date of sample taken and the establishment where the sample was collected.
- **Service facilities:** Abattoirs, quarantines, dead stock collection points, markets and assembly centres should be organized in such a way that they can be part of LITS.
- **Legal framework:** LITS requires a legal framework for its implementation and enforcement in a given country. This legal framework addresses issues that are related to the purposes of LITS as well as animal species to be identified.

IMPLEMENTATION

An action plan should be prepared to implement LITS. The action plan should specify the timetable and include the milestones and performance indicators, the human and financial resources, and checking, enforcement and verification arrangements.

CONCLUSION

Implementing and running a LITS require a high-level of coordination within and outside of an organisation, where all actors in the value- chain can cooperate to make the system work.

LITS is an important management tools in animal health and food safety and is a requirement in regional and international trade.

In its capacity as a leading continental organisation for livestock development, the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), in collaboration with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), assists Member States of IGAD to improve LITS and Disease Surveillance Systems through its regional project, STSD.

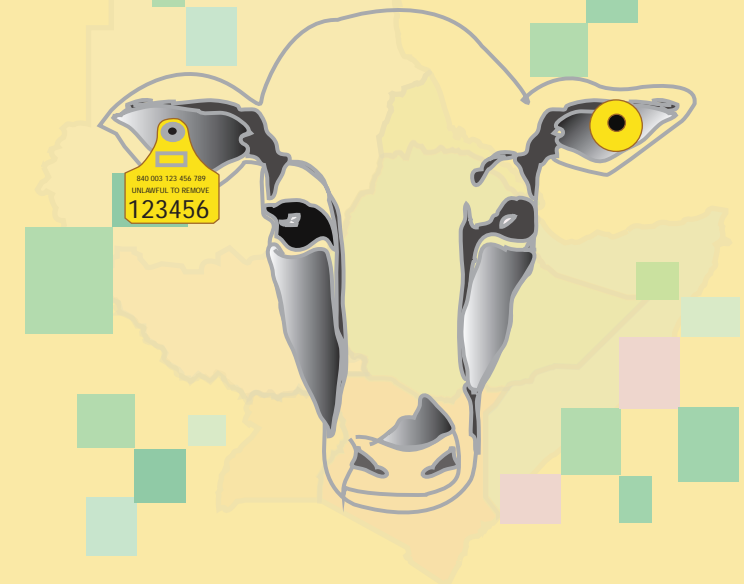
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STEP OUT! TOGETHER, WE CAN PROVE OUR ANIMALS ARE TRACEABLE!

LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION AND TRACEABILITY SYSTEM

WHY DO WE NEED IT?



STSD PROJECT

Improving Animal Disease Surveillance in Support of Trade in the IGAD Member States



LIVESTOCK IDENTIFICATION AND TRACEABILITY SYSTEM - LITS

WHAT IS IT?

LITS is a method, which enables countries and organisations to rapidly and accurately identify and track animals from birth to slaughter, and provide key information related to these animals. While livestock identification is a practice of linking an animal with a unique identifier, livestock traceability is the ability to follow an animal or group of animals during all stages of their life. Today, LITS is an important management tool in animal health and food safety and is a requirement in regional and international trade.

WHY WE NEED IT?

The purpose of a national LITS is to safeguard the country's assets, brands and farmers' income by maximising livelihoods services, and promoting market access for the country's animals and animal products. This can be achieved through managing animal health, disease outbreaks, food contamination and unjustified trade barriers with the application of LITS. Currently, live animal and meat importing countries are requiring more information to ensure that a product that meets consumers' demands is supplied. To this effect, a growing number of countries around the world have implemented LITS.

WHAT DOES LITS ENTAIL?

CONDUCTING A DETAILED STUDY ON THE LIVESTOCK SECTOR

A good LITS begins with a good understanding of the overall picture of the livestock sector in terms of animal populations, species, distribution and herd management system; animal and public health patterns; regional and international trade; aspects of animal husbandry; animal movement patterns, etc.

DEFINING THE DESIRED OUTCOMES THROUGH A CONSULTATIVE PROCESS

The understanding of the overall outcomes of LITS is crucial. The desired outcomes, through a consultative process, should determine prime objectives, which include better animal and human health, stock/herd management, enhancement of trade, animal performance and genetic improvement.

DESIGNING THE LITS SYSTEM

Designing LITS encompasses a number of activities:

- **Selection of the means of animal identification:** It is important to discern the means by which animal identification will be made.

- **Registration:** The registration of animals should at least capture the vital information about the animal, owner of the animal, location and its movements, and other important data.
- **Documentation:** It should be clearly defined and standardised, according to the desired outcomes and supported by the legal framework.
- **Reporting:** Such information as animal identification, movement, events, changes in numbers of livestock, etc should be reported to the veterinary authority by the person responsible for the animals.
- **Information system:** This can be designed either paper based or electronic. The system should provide the countries with the ability to collect, organise, store and retrieve of information. In most countries, electronic databases are used for this purpose.

The future of livestock and meat trade essentially depends on livestock identification and traceability as a means for verification of safety and quality.