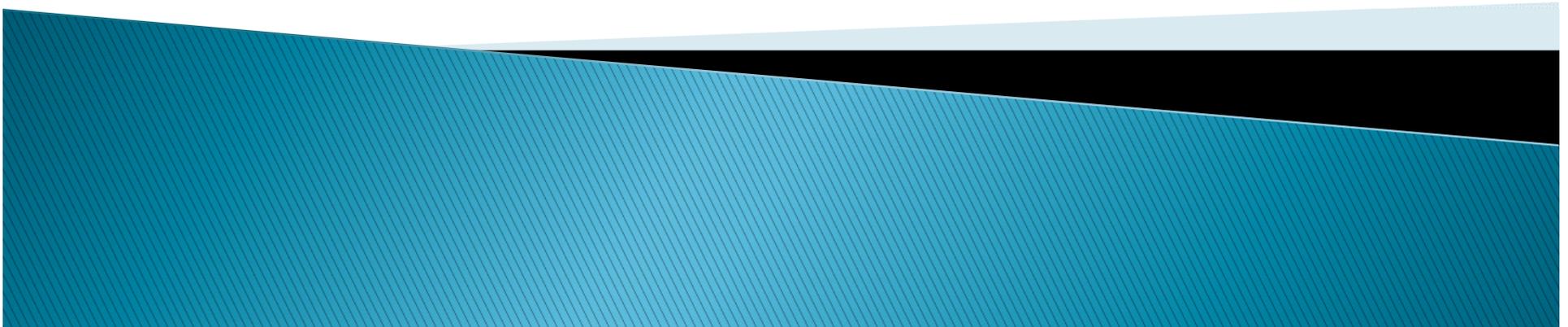


# THE ROLE OF VETERINARY PARAPROFESSIONAL IN AFRICA WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO TANZANIA

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# 1.Introduction



- ▶ Animal husbandry in Tanzania is mostly subsistence. Farmers allow their livestock to move long distances to search for water and pasture.
- ▶ In most parts of Tanzania, cattle and other ruminants are not fed at night.
- ▶ Housing of livestock leaves a lot to be desired, it is full of muddy during the rainy season.
- ▶ conception and calving rates are low due to poor mgt,
- ▶ Animal diseases are rampant and results in high mortality rates.

# 1 .Introduction-----

- ▶ The vision of the National Livestock Policy of 2006 is 'By the 2025, there should be a livestock sector which is to a large extent shall be commercially run, modern and sustainable, using improved and highly productive livestock to ensure food security, improved income for house hold and the national while conserving the environment.
- ▶ Basing on this vision a competitive and more efficient livestock industry that contributes to the improvement of the well-being of the people whose principal occupation and livelihood is based on livestock need to be developed.



# 1.Introduction-----

- ▶ The livestock sector plays a vital role in providing Livestock products such as meat, milk, and eggs; generate manure and draught power that provide inputs into cropping and transportation services.
- ▶ Livestock acts like a bank, it is a common means of saving whatever has been accumulated overtime and enables poor people to diversify and manage risks better .
- ▶ By 2012 there were about 4.0 million agricultural households, 36% (35% engaged in crops and livestock and 1% keeping livestock alone).



# 2.CONSTRAINTS TO LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION



- ▶ 2.1 Land tenure system
- ▶ There is lack of demarcation of village land for various agricultural activities and as such most of is used for crops production, while livestock are left to graze on the remaining land which is too small to accommodate all animals available
- ▶ overgrazing is a problem resulting in migration to other areas with few livestock.
- ▶ These new areas do not have the required infrastructure such as dips, water points, markets, and livestock health services

# 2.CONSTRAINTS TO LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION-----

## 2.2 Livestock Management

- ▶ Animal husbandry is mostly subsistence.
- ▶ In most areas cattle and other ruminants are not fed at night.
- ▶ Livestock housing leaves a lot to be desired – full of muddy during the rainy season.
- ▶ conception calving rates are low and mortality rates are high.



# 2.CONSTRAINTS TO LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION-----



## 2.3 Livestock feeds

- ▶ Inadequate feeds is common.
- ▶ Adequate feeds are only available during the rainy season. And in the dry season they are scarce and animals starve, not only due to low quality of forages but also due to bad practice of burning the rangelands.
- ▶ The consequence is poor production.

# 2.CONSTRAINTS TO LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION-----

- ▶ 2.4 Diseases control
- ▶ Although Rinderpest has been controlled CBPP, Anthrax, Black quarter, Rabies, East Coast Fever and FMD and other diseases are a common phenomenon
- ▶ Inadequate allocation of resources for livestock disease control is a problem
- ▶ There is general consensus, however, that the ability and quality of animal health services is fundamental in the reduction of diseases causing animal losses, which in turn can increase livestock productivity, farm income and therefore improve livelihood of farmers.
- ▶ In spite of this fact, effective control of animal diseases is not happening on the ground



# 2.CONSTRAINTS TO LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION-----

## 2.4 Diseases control

- ▶ the 1990's structural adjustment initiated by the World Bank resulted in dramatic reduction in government animal health services, and privatization of the public animal health services.
- ▶ The government on the other hand implemented the structural adjustment plans by facilitating government veterinarians to enter into private practice. This was a good start, but private qualified veterinarians were too few to fill the gap especially in the rural areas
- ▶ This situation resulted in high diseases incidence and provision of animal health services were mostly taken over by quarks.



# 2.CONSTRAINTS TO LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION-----

## 2:5 Trained Manpower

- ▶ Trained manpower to implement livestock development programmes are few and in some cases, inadequately prepared for the job.
- ▶ The transfer of technology from experts to farmers, livestock keepers and other stakeholders, need qualified and well trained extension personnel, who are the link between farmers, livestock keepers and research workers where technologies are developed, tested and modified.
- ▶ The reality shows that, generally the capacity for farmers to adopt improved technology is very low as they are not adequately trained. As a result their mode of production has predominantly remained traditional and subsistence.



# 3:0 STRATEGY FOR IMPROVED LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

- ▶ In raising productivity of livestock from the present subsistence production, attention must be given to effective animal health delivery services, training livestock keepers and those responsible for delivering the services at the grass root.
- ▶ Livestock keeping is viewed by many poor people in rural areas as one of the means that can support their livelihood in households, however, their ability to do so is always undermined by re-emergence of animal disease due to inadequate animal health services.
- ▶ while conducting training for farmers in Babati District, Tanzania it was revealed that there is shortage of government extension officers to provide sufficient animal health services in rural areas, With this situation filling the gap was therefore necessary.
- ▶ In filling these gaps veterinary paraprofessionals could play important roles .



# 3:0 STRATEGY FOR IMPROVED LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION-----

- ▶ It has been found that most livestock keepers live in areas where they are unable to access animal health services. In order to overcome this problem, veterinary paraprofessionals have a role to play in initiating and establishing an animal service delivery system.
- ▶ To carry out this role effectively, they need to be trained, preferably persons from the same area.
- ▶ These systems will assist to combat diseases at the earliest stages, at the grass root level before the government extension officers can be called in.
- ▶ A coordinated multidisciplinary animal health services structure needs to be established by governments which will also take into consideration other stakeholders like veterinary paraprofessionals.



# 4:0 CONCLUSION



- ▶ The realization of the vision of the national livestock policy depends on the addressing of a number of constraints such as the land tenure system, livestock management, livestock feeds, diseases control and training.
- ▶ Efforts made by the government to address some of these constraints in particular diseases control is hampered by inadequate and effective animal health services delivery system and shortage of government extension services.
- ▶ The need to have frontline extension cadre known as veterinary paraprofessional who are well trained is an alternative approach to the delivery the animal health services to the poor in the rural areas, in order to support their livelihood.
- ▶ To implement this mode effectively, there is a need to establish a coordinated animal health services structure that will involve all stake holders in the livestock sector.

**THANKS**

