Livestock and **Urban Waste** in East Africa

Rapid urbanisation has not been accompanied by equitable economic growth and has resulted in increased urban poverty. As a result of this worsening of urban poverty, many low-income households suffer from extremely limited livelihood security. Increasing demand for land in cities for housing favours urban livestock keeping, as it requires less or no land and promises higher returns per unit of land utilised.

REFERENCES
- Ishani, Z, PK Gathuru and D Lamba. 2002. Scoping study of Urban and Peri-urban poor livestock keepers in Nairobi, Mazingira Institute, Kenya.
- Ossiya, S, N Ishagi, L Aliguma and C Aisu. 2002. Urban and Peri-urban livestock keeping in Kampala City – a scoping study. Ibaren Konsultants, Kampala, Uganda.

This study was commissioned and financed by DFID's Livestock Production Programme, UK, and is based on five city case studies, which have been conducted by local research teams (for further details please refer to the full document which can be found on: ***www.nida.or.ug***

A workshop on these experiences will be organised by DFID, NRI and the LPP Partners and supported by RUAF in Nairobi, Kenya: January 27-30, 2003.

Compared to urban crop production, livestock can be shifted easily to other urban areas as they become available. The urban poor engage in urban livestock keeping as a response to limited alternative livelihood options and food insecurity, but they often lack control over and access to basic inputs.

LIVESTOCK AND LIVELIHOODS IN EAST AFRICA

With the objectives to understand the current situation of poor urban livestock keepers in East Africa, and to identify areas where future research could make a contribution to the development and promotion of this activity for the poor, five city case studies were selected in Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya and Ethiopia. The cities were Dar es Saalam, Kampala, Kisumu, Nairobi, and Addis Ababa.

The case studies reveal that urban livestock keeping benefits the poor and provides an accessible means of diversifying livelihood activities. Furthermore they show that especially vulnerable groups, such as female-headed households, children, retired people, widows and people with limited formal education are particularly involved in urban livestock keeping as a form of social security strategy (Ossiya et al. 2002). Urban livestock keeping contributes to food security, income and employment generation, savings and insurance systems and social status. It provides easily convertible assets for covering important expenditures (such as school fees, health treatments).

LIVESTOCK AND WASTE

There are also, however, various externalities involved in livestock keeping (e.g. zoonoses, environmental contamination, product safety) which require addressing. There is **strong evidence** from all the case studies **that animal waste disposal causes environmental and public health dangers** (Ishani, *et al.*, 2002). Urban livestock keeping also competes for water resources with human consumption as the demand for water for this activity is not taken into account by the supply services. In many slum areas, municipal water has to be bought and therefore other water sources, which are often contaminated, are accessed for livestock and men.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RESEARCH AND POLICY

Research studies are required to assess in more detail the current and potential impact these negative externalities have on urban people and to contribute to the development of strategies to overcome or minimise them.

Livestock waste management

Research is necessary to understand how water and public health problems will develop with increasing livestock numbers and over time. Parallel to understanding the scope and dimensions of this problem, research is required to provide improved waste-management technologies adapted to the specific circumstances of the poor. An important research component would be the potential for the intensification of urban/periurban and rural linkages in terms of nutrient flow.

Water availability

Currently, city planners do not take into account the water demands of urban livestock keepers. This results in competition for resources, overuse and conflicts between neighbours. Studies are needed which quantify the current and future water demand by urban livestock keeping, and to identify potential water management strategies.

Zoonoses

The existing and potential health risks for humans caused by the transmission of diseases from livestock have to be assessed in greater detail. Relevant information is needed to advise policy-makers and city authorities on these issues in order to provide guidance for the formulation of pro-poor urban livestock legislation. Aspects related to zoonoses, which need to be taken into account for the formulation of new legislation is food quality standards and quality control processes.

The study also shows that poor livestock keepers are marginalised from existing knowledge and improved technologies. There is a clear opportunity to improve the current management system through capacity development and information sharing. However, in order to achieve this, organisation and networking among poor livestock keepers is required to improve the access to services, information, technologies and markets.

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