Mali Livestock and Pastoralist Initiative

Livestock Market Information System (LMIS)

Background:
Due to the high dependency of pastoral family livelihood from the sale of livestock and livestock products, the USAID mission in Mali identified the need to improve the productivity and income of pastoralist and livestock producers in Mali by developing and using 21st century technology. Several collaborators initiated the Mali Livestock and Pastoralist Initiative 1 (MLPI-1). MLPI-1 developed the Livestock Market Information System (LMIS) which helps livestock producers and traders to make informed marketing decisions regarding their livestock via text messaging. Due to success of MLPI-1, Blackland researchers and others have since created a second initiative (MLPI-2) where they are developing a similar text messaging system to give herders current information about sources of water as well as information on livestock products such as meat, hides, skins, and milk.

MLPI-1:
The Livestock Information System enables producers to receive current market price information from a central Mali database based on an animals’ kind, breed, age, sex, and grade.

MLPI-2:
The MLPI-2 project implements the following activities:
1. Expansion of the livestock market information system (LMIS) in Mali to bring state-of-the-art communication and information technologies to remaining areas of the country;
2. Conduct market chain analyses by examining household marketing and migration decision making by pastoralists;
3. Develop methods and extension activities for nutritional analyses of supplemental feed in northern Mali;
4. Conduct risk management activities in northern Mali with a specific focus on community-based conflict management and development of mapping tools;
5. Develop early-warning capabilities for monitoring surface water used by livestock in northern Mali; and
6. Develop capacity and rapid assessment methods for monitoring livestock fodder and animal nutrition status.

Collaborators:
Texas A&M University  Syracuse University  Le' Institut Polytechnique Rural de Katibougou
Mali Institut d'Economie Rurale  USAID—Mali  Ministere do l'Elevage et de la Peche
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