

De-risking, Inclusion and Value Enhancement of Pastoral Economics (DRIVE), meet ANITRAC Consultants



The DRIVE Project Coordinator, Morris Ouma, Addressing Participants at the ANITRAC Workshop, Machakos

A three-days meeting, **27th to 29th November 2024**, between Technical and DRIVE Project Implementation committee and consultants for supplying, installation and commissioning of Animal Identification and Traceability System (ANITRAC), was held at Gelian Hotel, Machakos County, to discuss on the use of ANITRAC technical architecture, structure of the technology and its use.

The DRIVE Project has two broad intervention areas (components), Component 1: Aims to protect pastoralists against drought shocks using a package of financial services including drought insurance payment and savings while Component 2: Intends to connect pastoralists to better markets, by upgrading the livestock value chains and facilitating trade. The project development objectives are to enhance pastoralists' access to financial services for drought risk mitigation, include them in the value chains, and facilitate the livestock trade in the Horn of Africa.

Animal Identification and Traceability (ANITRAC) is a requirement for local and international trade in animals and animal products, food safety and security of animal assets. The current practice of manual operations in Kenya are not adequate to address challenges in animal production, disease surveillance, identification, registration and traceability. This has curtailed Kenya's push to grow exports of livestock and products to international markets as it is almost impossible to engage in international trade without compliance with modern traceability requirements. The roll out of ANITRAC will provide a solution to address these challenges.

ANITRAC aims "to satisfy domestic and international consumer requirements on safety and quality of animals and animal products" which will be partly achieved through "building an efficient and sustainable system for animal identification to achieve farm to fork traceability and secure livestock assets.

It will be anchored on national policies on livestock and will be implemented at both the County and National Government levels through shared data management platform to improve regulation and planning for the sub- sector. It is envisaged that ANITRAC will contribute to the resolution of: difficulties in the enforcement of livestock movement; inadequate access to credit and insurance using animals as collateral; increased incidents of antimicrobial resistance in humans and animals arising from residues in foods of animal origin; restricted access to opportunities in global trade due to failure to demonstrate the existence of a functional animal traceability system.



Members at The ANITRAC Workshop Listening to The Presentation

The overall objectives of setting up the system therefore are;

- a)** Improve market access of livestock and livestock products from Kenya;
- b)** Increase producer access to credit and livestock insurance facilities using identified livestock as collateral;
- c)** Curbing of illegal livestock movement within and across the country;
- d)** Facilitate control of trans-boundary and trade-sensitive animal diseases; surveillance, control and eradication.
- e)** Improve the quality and safety of food of animal origin through strengthened product traceability; compliance with requirements of international trade; compliance with country-of-origin labeling requirements
- f)** Curb livestock theft and related insecurity; and
- g)** Support breeding programs in animals and exchange of animal genetics

The ANITRAC system will use the following modules:

Animal identification module

This module involves marking an individual animal or a group of animals with a unique identifier by means of characters, signs, symbols, letters, naming or a combination of two or more tamper proof identifiers.

Animal registration module

This is when information on animals such as identification, animal health, animal movement, certification, breed, sex, production and family lineage is collected, recorded, securely stored and made appropriately accessible and capable of being utilized by producers, service providers, regulators and industry under the supervision of the competent authority. ANITRAC will also register key production, marketing and animal holding facilities such as quarantine stations.

Traceability module

This refers to the ability to follow an animal or group of animals during all stages of their lives while product traceability means the ability to identify from whom and to whom an animal product is received or supplied. ANITRAC will achieve traceability through capturing, maintaining and providing strategic access of data to critical nodes along the animal value chains including feed lots, quarantine facilities, slaughter facilities, processing facilities and markets. This data will include among others, animal registration information; premises/ farm; animal

health and husbandry history; animal movements; trail of ownership and termination. At termination, especially at abattoirs and meat processing facilities, products will be graded and linked to the animal records through Bar codes, QR codes or other suitable technologies.

Tracking Module

This refers to the ability to trace the whereabouts of an animal at any given time. It involves the use of satellite and active radio signal detection. Whereas animal identification globally is based on requirements for traceability and food safety, Kenya's unique livestock production practices and prevalence of livestock theft has created a strong demand for real-time tracking technologies as a solution to cattle rustling.

This meeting was attended by technical and implementation appointed members including: DRIVE Project Coordinator Morris Ouma, Dr Michael Kyalo-DVS, Dr Evans Muthuma-DVS, Dr Damaris Mwololo-DVS, Dr Abraham Sangula-DVS, Dr Richard Oruko-DVS, Kennedy Nyambane-Communications, Juma Modi-ICT and Mr Munyau- of Market Linkage- DRIVE, among others.

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