

# The link between Animal Welfare and Sustainable Development in Zambia

Dr. Ntombi Mudenda

*School of Veterinary Medicine - University of Zambia*

President, Veterinary Association of Zambia

# Objective of the Presentation

- ▶ To address objectives 1 and 6 of the Conference:
  - ▶ To demonstrate the link between Animal Welfare and the attainment of sustainable development in Zambia
  - ▶ To demonstrate the role of communities in achieving responsible use of animals
  - ▶ To demonstrate the role of communities in improving animal welfare in Zambia
  - ▶ To demonstrate the role of communities in supporting environmental conservation in Zambia

- ▶ The ARS is bunched under agriculture in general and contribution to the GDP of Zambia saw a decline in 2018 due to the weather effects on crops (Bank of Zambia annual report, 2018).
- ▶ Livestock sector's contribution was approximately 8.82% in 2014 (IFAD, 2014; IAPRA, 2012)
- ▶ If manure and animal draught power are taken into account, the contribution to national GDP increases (Lubungu et al 2012).
- ▶ In Zambia, about 23% of the per capita supply of protein comes from animal products (Aregheore, 2009).
- ▶ The value in terms of socio-cultural values, such as dowries, etc. in Zambia has not been quantified as it is highly diverse and dynamic.
- ▶ **Animals can only contribute to the SD of Zambia if they are in good welfare status**

# Key actors in AW in Zambia

- ▶ Livestock genetics - animal scientists
- ▶ Animal husbandry - animal scientists at various levels
- ▶ Animal health - Veterinarians
- ▶ Input suppliers - only regulated in terms of medicines
- ▶ Transporters - no specific regulations
- ▶ Abattoirs - regulation by public health and veterinary sectors, but slaughter slabs have less oversight and pain free death is not guaranteed
- ▶ Veterinary Public Health - veterinarians and medical public health

## Cont'd

- ▶ Distributors, consumers - mostly depends on individual exposure, knowledge and feeling on animal welfare
- ▶ Farmers - generally care about the welfare of the animals they raise, with a bias towards beneficial outcomes
- ▶ Policy makers - need to be better informed about animal welfare and sentience.
- ▶ Enforcement agents [veterinary departments, security agents, judiciary] - can do better in understanding animal welfare and sentience
- ▶ NGOs and CSOs - are generally informed about animal welfare and sentience, although not many are active in protecting animal welfare

# Influence of Key Actors

- ▶ Veterinarians - most influential as they tend to the sick animals due to possible animal welfare issues
- ▶ Animal Scientists - also very influential as they are very involved in the production process and can influence animal owners before the problems are created
- ▶ Public health Workers - can also influence as they see the result of animals slaughtered in inhumane conditions and its influence on the quality of animal products as well psychological effect on witnessing animals killed inhumanely

## Influence of Key Actors...

- ▶ The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act CAP 245 provides that any person found causing harm or hurt to an animal is liable to imprisonment of up to one year or pay a fine or both
- ▶ Zambia is now considering the introduction of an Animal Welfare Act of which the Veterinary Association of Zambia is a strong advocate

# Key Animal Welfare Issues in Zambia

- ▶ Animals in farming - overcrowding (poultry), overworked draught animals, poor transport facilities, etc
- ▶ Animals during disasters - drought effects mostly- walking long distances to access water and grazing.
- ▶ Working animals - overworking and beating
- ▶ Wildlife animals - altered natural behaviour for those in confinement
- ▶ There is need for research into the welfare issues affecting various animal groups in Zambia

# Intervention Opportunities

- ▶ The role of the OIE:-
  - ▶ Zambia has an OIE Animal Welfare Focal Point Person, which shows Zambia's willingness to work with OIE
- ▶ Emerging Continental Initiatives [Driven by AUI-IBAR] to enhance Animal Welfare in Africa: - AWSA, APAW, AAVSB [regulation] and AAVEE [Training]
  - ▶ Zambia is keen and willing to adopt strategies that contribute positively to the development of the country and improve relations with other countries in Africa and the region

# Gaps for AW in Zambia and Recommended Interventions

## ▶ Legal Framework

- ▶ Policies - There is need for development of an AW Policy which can be a fore-runner for the AW Act.
- ▶ Currently the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act CAP 245 is in force although enforcement is weak
- ▶ Need for sensitization on the current Act as the AW Act is being developed

## ▶ Technical Capacity

- ▶ AW is now in the Veterinary curriculum in UNZA since 2015 - should also be included in the curriculum of animal scientists
- ▶ Capacity to train/advocate/lobby about animal welfare needs to be strengthened

## Cont'd

### ▶ Financial

- ▶ Resources to drive the animal welfare agenda are inadequate
- ▶ Political goodwill will rely on appreciation of benefits
- ▶ Partnerships from other sectors including AW organizations can be forged to get the AW Act in place as well as sensitization on AW at all levels including farmers

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- World Animal Protection for additional liaisons

Thank you!