

Messrs.

Subject: EMERGENCY AND RECOVERY LIVESTOCK PROJECT PROPOSALS FOR 2005

Following the Joint Government/UN Agencies/Humanitarian Partners' Appeal for 2005 launched on December 23, 2004, FAO, in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and Regional Bureaus of Agriculture, has prepared for your attention the attached emergency and recovery project proposals concerning livestock in drought-affected areas. Detailed project proposals can be provided to you upon request.

Emergency and recovery interventions in agriculture are complementary to food aid and are meant to allow drought-affected farming and pastoral households to reconstitute their assets and resume their production. Emergency and recovery interventions in agriculture would definitively prevent people from being dependent on food-aid in future.

In Afar National Regional State the situation is very alarming due the poor performance of main Meher rains and the failure of short rains, particularly in Zone 2 (Berehale, Erebt and Magale Woredas), Zone 4 (Yallo and Teru Woredas) and Zone 1 (Elidar Woreda). Poor pasture and water shortage have caused abnormal livestock movement and aggregation around water points and swampy areas both in Afar and Amhara (Chefera and Mersa). The risk of disease outbreaks is very high and will become worse in the next months when the effects of droughts are expected to worsen. The proposed emergency intervention will target about 1.5 million livestock owned by 86,580 households and cost US\$ 729,414.

In Somali National Regional State the short rains in many zones and Woredas have temporarily alleviated pasture and water shortages. However the situation is still critical since pastures are expected to be depleted before next rains. Animal health is also a problem in particular in few Woredas of Degahabur and Warder Zones (Gashamo, Bokh and Galadi) due to livestock influx from neighbouring countries. The proposed emergency project will target 2.8 million livestock and benefit 94,300 households. It will cost US\$ 649,000.

Twenty drought-affected hotspot Woredas of Tigray National Regional State are estimated to require emergency animal health support. In addition 12 out of 20 Woredas require restocking in order to rebuild the livelihood of drought-affected farming households. The proposed project will target about 1 million livestock heads belonging to 168,000 farming households. In addition restocking, including goats, poultry and bee-colonies will benefit about 3,000 farming households. The proposed project will cost US\$ 700,000.

Small ruminants contribute significantly to improve food-security and poverty alleviation at household and national level. **However, in drought-affected Woredas of Amhara National Regional State**, high incidence of internal and external parasites constitutes a major impediment to sheep and goat survival and production. The unusual severity and rapid spreading of the parasites are related with recurrent droughts and in particular with abnormal livestock movement and aggregation near water logged areas and water points. A project to control the level of infestation and improve production and productivity has been designed for 38 drought-affected and food insecure Woredas of Amhara region. It will target 3.65 million sheep and goats belonging to about 670,000 farming households and cost US\$ 1.1 million. The project is expected to greatly contribute to household food security and expand Ethiopian exports.

We would like to emphasize that projects will be implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Regional and Sub-Regional administrations. Local communities will also be involved in all aspects of project implementation from planning to monitoring and evaluation. Beneficiaries will be selected by communities in accountable and transparent manner. *Female-headed households and households with HIV/AIDS-affected members will be given priority.*

Due to the urgency of this situation my colleague Luciano Mosele will follow up with you. For any interest, question or comment, please contact either me or him.

Thank you and kind regards

Sincerely Yours

Victoria Sekitoleko
FAO Representative in Ethiopia
To AU and ECA

1. EMERGENCY VETERINARY INTERVENTIONS IN AFAR REGION

According to the field assessment conducted in November 2004 in Afar National Regional State by the MoARD with the support of FAO, the general food security situation for 2005 is critical in 16 hotspot Woredas. This is mainly due to erratic and insufficient rain of the short rain season (*sugum*) and the delay and uneven distribution of the main rain (*kerma*) in 2004, which make the availability of feed and water critical. Pastoralists from hotspot Woredas are currently experiencing increased livestock mortality, decreased food (milk and meat) availability, malnutrition, low price for animals, and high grain price and water shortages. This situation is compounded by previous years of droughts which also caused loss of livestock and low productivity.

High concentration of migrated livestock in "better" grazing areas and watering points increase frequency of contacts between animals, which favours the occurrence, and rapid spread of infectious diseases amongst physically weakened livestock. Thus, the high risk of disease outbreak at an epidemic level due to drought-related crowding of livestock is anticipated. Consequently preparedness for animal health emergency intervention is recognised to be the priority. Thus, in order to avoid or reduce further losses of livestock, preventive measures must be taken within relatively short time. However, the public veterinary service in the region/woreda is unable to prevent and control livestock epidemic diseases mainly due to lack of veterinary inputs and other logistic supports.

This project will therefore provide the necessary prophylactic (vaccination) and curative treatments required to prevent and control the occurrence of major livestock diseases and improve the capacity of the regional veterinary services in the 16 hotspot Woredas identified in Afar region.

The project which will have six months duration beginning January 2005, will be implemented in 16 Woredas located in all the 5 zones of the Afar region. A total of 1,501,719 livestock (261,772 cattle, 1,121,344 shoats, 112,284 camels and 6,319 equines owned by 86,580 households (a total of 432,900 people) will be benefiting from the project with a total fund of US\$ 729,414.

The project will reduce the vulnerability of pastoral communities through bringing an improvement in livestock production and productivity especially by making available milk for household consumptions and improving nutritional status of children in the areas. Further, it will increase the consumption of purchased grain using income to be generated from the sales of surplus livestock products and ensure speedy recovery. Finally the project is expected to increase the capacity of public veterinary services and local people to prevent and treat animal diseases.

2. EMERGENCY VETERINARY INTERVENTIONS IN SOMALI REGION

The field assessment study executed in November 2004 by the MoARD in collaboration with the Somali Livestock, Crops and Natural Resources Development Bureau (LCNRDB) and with FAO support, confirmed that the general food security situation in the Somali Region for 2005 is from below normal to poor. This is mainly due to the two successive poor rains ('Deyr' 2003 and 'Gu' 2004) followed by a delay of the 2004 'Deyr' rains, in most zones. This makes the availability of feed and water a critical constraint in practically all identified hotspot areas. The influx of livestock from Southern Somalia and the internal migration have further exacerbated the pressure on scarce feed and water. Because of cumulative and spill over weather effects of past seasons, a significant proportion of livestock will be at high risk

In addition, high concentration of livestock on relatively smaller areas and few water points increase the frequency of contacts between animals and therefore favour the occurrence and rapid spread of infectious diseases amongst physically-weakened animals. Thus, due to the high risk due to drought-related crowding of livestock, preventive measures must be instituted within relatively a short time in order to avoid or reduce possible losses. As a consequence an animal health intervention was recognised to be a priority.

The project will improve the capacity of the regional veterinary services and provide the necessary prophylactic (vaccination) and curative treatments required to prevent and control the occurrence of major livestock diseases in the 20 identified hotspot Woredas in the Somali National Regional State (SNRS). The overall objective is to enable the survival of "valuable" livestock, which are the major assets and livelihood basis for the target pastoral and agro-pastoral communities, and cope with weather-induced droughts to reach the next rainy season when grazing pasture and water will be available. ***The project, costing US\$ 649,003, will be implemented in 5 months beginning January 2005. A total of 2,872,370 livestock will be targeted and 94,300 households will directly benefit from the project.*** During the span of this project, in addition to preventive vaccination activities, treatment of breeding stocks and young animals will be carried out against endemic infectious diseases, internal and external parasites and Trypanosomosis. In addition to reduce animal mortality, the project is anticipated to substantially improve the milk production and body conditions of the targeted livestock population during the critical dry season and ensure speedy recovery then after. The project will also strengthen the disease surveillance, early warning and response capacity of the regional Livestock, Crop, Natural Resources Development Bureau (LCNRDB) through the provision of various veterinary inputs, operational support and training.

3. EMERGENCY AND RECOVERY LIVESTOCK PROJECT IN DROUGHT-AFFECTED AREAS OF TIGRAY

Tigray is the northern region of the Ethiopia and it covers an approximate area of 50 thousand square kilometres with an average density of about 65 persons/km² and population growth rate of about 3%. Most of the area is arid or semi-arid with annual precipitation of 450-980 mm. Rainfall in the area is unpredictable, and it is quite common to observe the recurrence of water logging and drought during one cropping season. As a consequence the region is subject to cyclical drought and famine.

The emergency livestock needs assessment in Tigray Region, conducted by MoARD/BoA and FAO in November 2004, indicated that the Azemera, Tsedia and Meher rains have poorly performed particularly in 20 hotspot Woredas of Tigray. As the results, crops failed and livestock were seriously affected. Livestock morbidity and mortality have been reported in some Woredas.

As a consequence emergency animal interventions are required in 20 hotspot Woredas. In addition 12 out of 20 Woredas require animal restocking. In absence of any meaningful interventions drought-affected farming households will further fall into destitution. Shoats, poultry and bee-colonies restocking with forage development and health services will help to rapidly rebuild the livelihood of the poor farming/pastoral communities following drought(s).

The animal health services will benefit about 1 million livestock heads belonging to 168,000 farming households (about 840,000 persons). Restocking will include 6,000 shoats, 9,600 poultry and 600 bee-colonies and will benefit about 3,000 farming households (15,000 persons). The project life will be of 12 months and its estimated cost is of US\$ 700,214.

4. EMERGENCY AND RECOVERY ASSISTANCE TO SMALL RUMINANTS IN AMHARA REGION

This project proposal is the result of the Assessment of the Emergency/Recovery Assistance required to the Livestock sub-sector in Amhara National Regional State (AMNRS) for the preparation of the Joint Government/UN Agencies/Humanitarian Partners' Appeal for 2005.

The assessment was conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MoARD) in collaboration with FAO and several NGOs. During the assessment, the mission closely discussed with the farming communities and also observed the livestock, their feeds, diseases, and water situations and identified emergency/recovery interventions required at all levels. Accordingly, the AMNRS needs were reflected in the joint humanitarian appeal of 2005.

Small ruminants in AMNRS contribute significantly to improve food-security and poverty alleviation at household and national level. However, high incidence of internal and external parasites constitutes a major impediment to sheep and goats survival and production in most drought-prone Woredas of Amhara National Regional State.

Although internal and external parasites have been known in the rural areas for a long period of time, their unusual severity and rapid spreading are related with recurrent droughts. Abnormal livestock movement and aggregation near water logged areas and water points, intermittent rains, droughts and light shower rains, and drought-breaking heavy rains further favour the occurrence of internal parasites and mange mites of shoats.

The public animal health service (there are practically no private veterinary services) is unable to manage the rapid spreading of both mange and internal parasites due to mainly lack of vet-inputs and other logistics. Sheep and Goats mortality increased and their production and productivity are negatively affected. As the result, food-security and livelihood conditions of farming households declined significantly.

The overall objective of the proposed project is to improve food-security of the farming communities through augmenting livestock production and preventing loss of small ruminants in 38 drought-affected and food-insecure Woredas of AMNRS. In addition, the project aims at building the capacity of the farming communities and animal health staffs to minimize the high incidence of mange and internal parasite infection of shoats and improve shoat production and productivity. Finally, the project is expected to improve revenues of the tanneries and export earnings by reducing skin losses.

The project will have the duration of 12 months and benefit a total of 669, 445 households owning 3.65 million sheep and goats. The total project cost is US\$ 1,154,802 and the majority of the fund (>80%) will be used for the purchase of veterinary drugs and

equipment and for the support of shoats' dipping and de-worming campaigns in the hotspot Woredas.