

Management of livestock sector in Kazakhstan

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Introduction

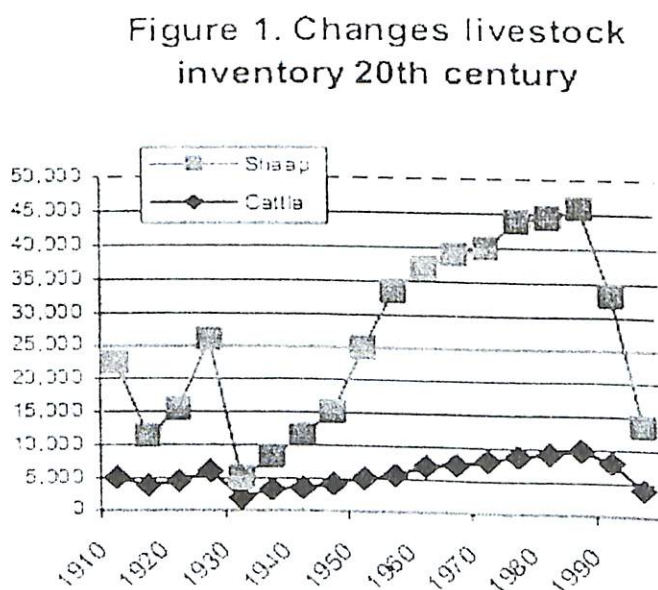
The overall objective of the study of Management of Livestock Sector in Kazakhstan is to assist the Kazakhstan government & enterprises in reaching a consensus for the sustainable development of the livestock sector and for priority activities in key policy and investments. initiatives that will overcome current and anticipated constraints and facilitate the creation of a demand driven production and marketing system, while assuring affordable availability of essential livestock products to the poor. A number of short policy notes, and a summary report, envisage providing guidance to Government & enterprises on necessary changes.

Kazakhstan is a country of a size similar to Western Europe. Most of the country consists of dry steppe grasslands, traditionally used for livestock production that around 1990 represented some 60% of agricultural output. The livestock and pasture sector in Kazakhstan have experienced drastic changes during the economic transition of the last decade by having to adjust for distortions during the Soviet period when it was solely producing for the, then protected, Soviet market. During that time the sector went through a substantial contraction of its inventory, especially after 1995 when reformed farms as well as rural farm workers liquidated animal stock to pay for debts and farm inputs. The outcome to date is a sector with a current animal inventory that is lower than it was at the beginning of the 20th century (see figure 1). The rural infrastructure has crumbled and many people living in the outback of the vast Kazakh plains have been left in poverty depending on the few animals left for their main livelihood.

The contraction of the sector has bottomed out in 2000. Urban demand, especially for meat is rapidly increasing, in part fueled by the oil boom. However, this has not yet translated into significant reduction of rural poverty. The livestock sector can be regarded as one of the driving forces in rural revival in this country dominated by grasslands. The Government recognizes this, but is uncertain about the approach and the tools to stimulate growth appropriately and

sustainably. It continues to believe in the model of agro-industrial complexes with some rehabilitation of large farms and of energy intensive production and considers that, based on feed resources and markets, Kazakhstan livestock sector should be able to export to nearby markets in Russia and China. There are ample examples of emerging small and middle-sized production systems, which potentially can lead the way for a re-emerging animal resources sector. On the other hand, increasing prices threaten to deprive the urban and suburban poor access to meat and dairy products.

Figure 1. Changes livestock inventory 20th century.



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Summary

The overall objective of the management study in the livestock sector in Kazakhstan is to assist the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and businesses in achieving a consensus on the sustainable development of livestock sector and for priority activities in key policy and investment.

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