

Current Situation

The livestock sector in Malawi is contributes significantly to food and nutrition security and to the overall economic growth.

Livestock ownership in the country still remains low, and most poor households use small livestock for income generation as well as a source of animal protein and their livelihood. There are relatively small business investments in the production of dairy, poultry products and meat

The current livestock statistics are:

- **Cattle : 1,026,793** (heads)
- Beef = 987,061 (heads)
- Dairy 39,732heads).
- Total beef =29,488 tons
- Milk = 39,732 tons.
- **Goats : 3,754,320** (heads)
- *Total goat meat*production = of 22,763 tons
- **Sheep : 209,153**
- meat production = 980 tons
- **Pigs : 1,640,491** (91% indigenous and 9% exotic).
- **Poultry:34,055,728**
- Indigenous -18,098,625;
- Broillers-10,369,698;
- Layers-5,018,394
- Black Austrolop (BA)-569,011

Challenges

Livestock production and productivity is characterized by the following challenges:

- ✦ Difficulties in obtaining breeding stock locally.
- ✦ Diseases
- ✦ Poor nutrition and breeding practices
- ✦ Inadequate production and management practices by both rural farmers and extension staff
- ✦ Seasonal lack of feed and the stocking of species with low productive potential

- ✦ Limited livestock ownership by vulnerable households in most communities
- ✦ Lack of formal small livestock marketing system

FAO Activities

FAO is working with the Government of Malawi through the Department of Animal Health and Livestock Development (DAHLD) to improve animal health, veterinary public health and promote overall livestock development for the production of beef, dairy, poultry and goat meat products, under the following project interventions:

1. “HPAI Surveillance” Phase II targeting border districts with neighbouring countries of Mozambique and Zambia



2. FICA-FAO Project in Kasungu and Mzimba Districts and Norwegian funded project in Balaka, Mangochi and Machinga
3. Promotion of small livestock (goat) production for poverty reduction and nutrition security-

