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Press Release

African Institution Takes over Helm of International Livestock Development Platform

Addis Ababa, 20 September 2007. – The director of the African Union's Interafrican Bureau of Animal Resources (AU/IBAR) has taken over the chair of the executive committee of the African Partnership for Livestock Development, Poverty Alleviation & Sustainable Growth (ALive).

At the partnership's third general assembly held in Addis Ababa the director of AU/IBAR, Dr Modibo Traore expressed his determination to lead ALive into a new phase of its activity for the next three years to come. His tenure would be defined by key goals, instrumental for the further development of the livestock sector in Africa.

Says ALive's new chairman Dr Traore, "First of all, we aim to stimulate the interest of our political stakeholders in livestock matters. This is absolutely necessary since we need to raise the level of investment into the African livestock sector in line with NEPAD's Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program CAADP. And then we must ensure that livestock sector is properly taken into account in the PRSP system. This system was agreed upon for important reasons and only the compliance with it keeps our donors on board."

Her Excellency, the AU commissioner for rural economy and agriculture and president of the ALive general assembly, madam Rosebud Kurwijila expressed her satisfaction with the move of the chairmanship to AU/IBAR. "We are very happy to witness that the platform has now come home. It has now been entrusted to the hands and institutions of Africa, who must rise to the occasion, assume the responsibility and take the process forward."

The outgoing ALive chairman, Dr Bernard Vallat, director general of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) was pleased to hand over the chairmanship to a representative of an African institution. He said that this move had been planned from the onset four years ago when ALive was inaugurated and it also set very important positive signals in the right direction for the African continent.

The week-long conference in the Ethiopian capital was attended by three African ministers for livestock and agriculture, representatives of the African Union and regional economic communities as well as OIE and FAO, international cooperating partners, research institutions

and NGOs, the European Commission, GTZ, USAID, France/MAE, AfDB, World Bank and CIRAD, FARA/ILRI, EISMV, IUCN and others.

The conference was kicked off with a two-day technical workshop of the ALive platform which gathered international expertise on marketing of livestock products and issues in the area of African pastoralism.

According to Dr Francois Le Gall, founder and program manager of ALive, a key issue of the ALive platform is to promote and support the repositioning of the livestock sector on the national and international poverty reduction agendas where it is still immensely underrepresented, as research undertaken by ALive's secretariat highlighted. Most poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSPs) hardly discussed livestock sector development and the same is found when analysing NEPAD policy papers.

This situation is noteworthy because of the important economic, social and environmental roles played by the livestock sector. The platform validated several key policy notes on animal health delivery and veterinary public health, trade and subsidies, food safety, dairy development, and of pastoralism. Two particularly important issues were discussed on mobility of pastoral systems and drought management as droughts increased pastoralists vulnerability, diminished their purchase power and sometimes lead to violent conflict.

The general assembly of ALive approved the implementation of concrete guidelines, tool kit, and databases to be used by a broad range of stakeholders adopted recommendations on the future of the platform in four strategically important areas.

About ALive

ALive is a global platform aiming to improve the contribution of the African livestock sector to poverty reduction and to promote equitable, safe and sustainable economic growth. As a partnership ALive targets animal health systems to improve veterinary public health and market access for farmers. Specific goals in the livestock sector are:

- Enhancing livestock stakeholders' participation, donors and partners collaboration, institutional strength and natural resources protection
- Improving the knowledge about the livestock sector, strategies and livestock program formulation
- Promoting regional collaboration/integration, knowledge sharing and dissemination, sub-regional training and capacity building
- Integrating those results into on-going and forthcoming operational programs of ALive partners.

ALive promotes and facilitates the implementation of policies for the livestock sector which result in greater economic efficiency and sustainability, and strategies which disseminate knowledge and best practices. Through the participation of international, regional and sub-regional organizations, including regional economic communities, multilateral and bilateral donors, farmer associations, research institutions.

The partnership is organized around four themes to reach its objectives:

Theme 1: ALive shares a vision, designs a strategy and facilitates member collaboration. It complements ongoing initiatives to improve client participation and donor collaboration, and translates the partners' vision into actions at country and sub-regional levels through better harmonized livestock development strategies and activities.

Theme 2: ALive conducts specific activities in support of capacity building and knowledge management at subregional level

Theme 3: ALive offers analytical support and operational assistance at national level that integrates sector knowledge to policy, strategy and action plan formulation. This theme is a continuum of activities, fully integrated into a country Poverty Reduction Strategy Process

Theme 4: ALive provides a permanent platform organized and animated by a secretariat. The secretariat monitors and reports on activities that are part of the action plan, shares and disseminates knowledge and promotes ALive activities with policy makers and the general public.

Contact: Pascal Corbé
Communications Adviser and Knowledge Manager
AU/IBAR
communications@au-ibar.org
Tel: +254 20 367 4220
Mobile: +254 73 509 5195

For more information on ALive visit www.alive-online.org

IMPROVING HUMAN WELLBEING THROUGH ENHANCED ANIMAL HEALTH, PRODUCTION, TRADE AND MARKETING

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