Lessons learned in terms of implementation of the Commodity-Based Value Chain Approach Demonstrated by the Abattoir Pilot Project in Zambezi Region, Namibia

Towards Implementation of Commodity-Based Trade of Beef in KAZA Opportunities for Integrating Livestock Agriculture and Wildlife Conservation 3-4 November 2016, Victoria Falls - Zimbabwe

A TOTO & B Manda



"I want sell cattle at the time when I want to sell. It is especially important to me to sell animals during November-February in order to pay school fees. I need a good, fair and predictable price for my animals"

Ms Jennifer Nkando Smallholder Cattle Farmer

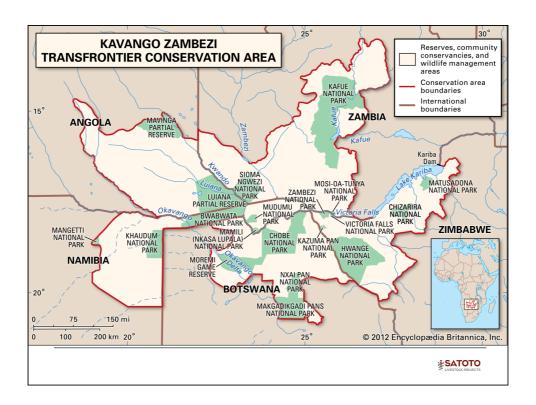
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"We need a supply of animals to the abattoir for at least 9 months a year. We need to buy during the peak sale period and when animals are in good condition. We need to be able to export for at least 9 months a year. We would like the abattoir at least to break even & in some good years make a profit"

Mr Berry Manda

Meatco Abattoir Procurement Manager

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Facts and figures

- An estimated 4.3 per cent of Namibia's population lives in Zambezi region
- 89,000 people in 22,000 households, of whom 70 per cent own livestock of some kind
- Predominant livestock species is cattle, of which there are 136,600 according to census
- Estimated at 150,000 according to local experts

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Why was this pilot conducted?

- Namibia and South Africa implemented safe commoditybased type trade in fresh beef from Zambezi Region, late 1990s until 2007
- Increased frequency of foot-and-mouth (FMD) disease outbreaks in Zambezi Region led to suspension of exports
- Limited exports continued to other markets within SADC under same sanitary measures
- Project was initiated by the Meat Board of Namibia efforts to resume exports to South Africa

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Problems facing beef sector in Zambezi

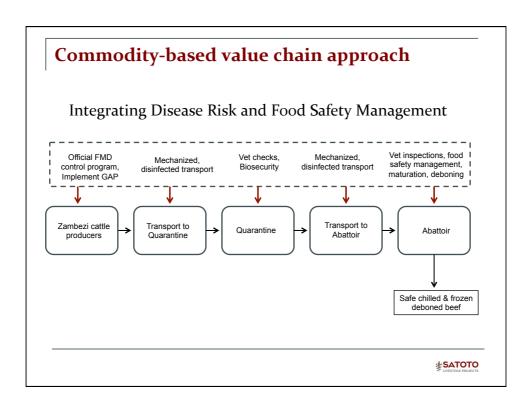
- Still waiting for resumption of exports to RSA market
- Export certification to other markets suspended during and following an outbreak anywhere in the region
- Prolonged disruption to livestock marketing activities throughout the region during and following outbreaks
- Ms. Jennifer Sankombo's wishes have not been met since 2007 and Mr. Berry Manda could never buy animals for desired period of 9 months let alone peak periods

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Key principles for any solution considered

- Solution must be science-based, technically, economically, financially and politically implementable
- Must meet the needs of farmers including Ms Nkando and allows the Katima abattoir to fulfil its function
- Must meet the needs of consumers, traders, butchers and abattoir workers
- Must help the Veterinary Authority to function more effectively and result in acceptable level of protection sought by importing countries

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Supporting scientific studies

- Experimental infection study conducted by the Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute (OVI) in its BSL-3 facility
- Sampling carcasses at Meatco Katima Mulilo
 Abattoir, in Zambezi Region. Samples lymph nodes
 and serum
- Quantitative risk assessment

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Results of scientific studies

- No FMD virus was detected in fat tissues sampled and confirmation that FMD virus is in rarely detectable amounts in muscle (meat)
- Abattoir samples, lymph nodes and serum were negative
- Quantitative risk assessment concluded that the risk of FMD virus through fresh meat produced under CBT value chain approach was negligible

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Key issues for consideration

- Possible contact with wildlife, role of cross-border livestock movements overlooked
- Quarantine biosecurity & sero-surveillance
- Capacity to implement official controls
- Product quality and volumes need attention
- Pilot studies should involve of target markets

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Conclusion

- Fresh beef produced under the CBT Value Chain Approach is a safe product to trade
- If there is a business case, CBT through processed meat and meat products should be considered
- Training in risk analysis is important lack of capacity often result in decisions that are not based on science
- Need to widen decision-making process regarding acceptance of CBT – currently limited to veterinarians

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