

BRIEFING BY THE HONOURABLE COMMISSIONER
MINISTRY OF ANIMAL HEALTH AND FISHERIES
DEVELOPMENT

It is my singular honour to brief you through highlighting the numerous achievements of this noble Administration in the Livestock and Fisheries sector, which could not have been possible without the support of His Excellency to the Ministry and commitment and determination of the staff.

The Ministry of Animal Health and Fisheries Development emerged as a result of the positive initiative of the present Administration by the creation of Ministry of Environment, resulting in pulling out the Department of Forestry into the newly created Ministry of Environment and the subsequent absorption of the Fisheries Department from Ministry of Agriculture.

The Ministry is entrusted with the responsibility of Livestock Production, Diseases Control, Treatment and prevention, Veterinary Public Health, Hides/Skin improvement, Range Management and Fisheries Development. It consists of 4No professional Departments with Administration and Planning Departments as coordinating units. The professional Departments include Veterinary Services, Livestock Development, Range Management and Fisheries Development Departments respectively. Accordingly the Veterinary Services Department is in charge of Disease control, Treatment & prevention, Surveillance, Hides/Skin improvement activities and Veterinary Public Health while Livestock Development Department is in charge of Livestock Production and development in the state. Range Management is in charge of Grazing Reserves Development and Stock Routes in the state. Fisheries Development Department is in charge of Artisanal and Fish Farming development and other Fish related activities.

VETERINARY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Between 2007 & 2010, the following activities were conducted. The State Government procured assorted Livestock Vaccines and dressings for the regular annual vaccination of livestock in the State. As a result of this, remarkable success was achieved in disease control. Indeed, the effort led to the vaccination of 450,321 cattle, 763,931 sheep and 363,535 goats. In addition, 364,006 cattle, 231,354 sheep, 192,300 goats, 6547 camel 5273 horses and donkeys were treated against different ailments in the various veterinary clinics last year in the state. The exercise was conducted in conjunction with Local Government councils. The 2008/2009 exercise was conducted in collaboration with the Federal Livestock Department which further increased the percentage coverage as a result of additional vaccines received by the state from the Federal Government.

Other projects executed by the present administration under veterinary services department during the period under review include:-

1. The construction of 8 Veterinary Clinics in 2007 in the following Local Government areas Wamakko, Bodinga, Kware, Illela, Tureta, Wurno, S/Birni and Kebbe.
2. The 8 Veterinary Clinics' constructed in 2007 were equipped with both clinical, surgical and office equipment in 2008/2009. Qualified veterinary surgeon officers were posted to ensure effective utilization of the facility for the overall benefit of the stakeholders.
3. Contract for the construction of modern abattoir has been awarded at over ₦800 Million with a proposed completion period of 18 months. It is Hoped that once completed, the product and bye product from the centre will be whole some, hygienic and fit for human consumption which will reduce the incidence of zoonotic diseases of food origin drastically and encourage the springing up of small scale businesses in the state.

4. During the period under-review zonal veterinary diagnostic laboratories were established to assist clinicians in confirmatory diagnosis through samples and specimen analysis at field levels while major investigations are referred to NVRI (VOM) in Jos.
5. The Government has continued to support the staff to attend professional seminars and workshops as part of capacity building drive for improved service delivery.

Also in 2007 working equipment such as protective clothing, improved flying & meat inspection knives were procured & distributed to the abattoir & slaughter houses/slabs in the 23 Local Government areas. The Ministry also conducted in house training for meat and hides and skins inspectors and butchers in addition to introducing motorized inflation pumps and other working materials such as motorcycles and rain boots.

Further more in 2007 the Ministry conducted anti rabies campaign to raise awareness to the general public on the menace of rabies diseases in our societies (Ciwon Haukan Kare).

- The Ministry of Animal Health and Fisheries Development Veterinary Officers participated in the 97th and 98th regular veterinary council meeting in Abuja and the 46th annual conference of NVMA in Awka during the period under-review as part of capacity building strategy of the Ministry aimed at improving service delivery.
- The Ministry of Animal Health and Fisheries Development has also organized a meeting with Hides & Skin Dealers and Butchers Association to discuss way forward in the area of Hides & Skin improvement activities in the state.

LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

The D/Daji LIBC and Kebbe Cattle Ranch are centres created to carry out investigation within the famous Sokoto Gudali breed of cattle for the production and multiplication of improved breed for dairy at LIBC Dogondaji and for Beef production at Kebbe Cattle Ranch. They also serve as open nuclear centres where breeds are selected, improved, multiplied and sold to farmers to upgrade their herds. With the coming of the present administration; the centres have started recovering from long neglect. The Government has recruited 8 additional qualified Animal Scientists to man the stations.

Also with the kind approval of His Excellency, 100 hectares of pasture was developed with assorted seeds and fencing materials. The same pasture was maintained this year for the dry season feeding of the Livestock. As a result of this positive development, the total stock population has risen from 150 to 182 to date.

The Artificial Insemination Program continues to make some moderate success inspite of the lukewarm attitude of our pastoralists towards adopting new ideas and the Ministry's mobilization and sensitization efforts in the state media, distribution of pamphlets and posters.

Accordingly, the Ministry has secured His Excellency's approval to embark on a refresher training of its inseminators and stakeholders (farmers) on proper heat detection techniques which is the backbone of a successful A.I.

The poultry production unit continuous to provide day old chicks and eggs to the general public at subsidized prices. From 2007 to date about 59,545 eggs were sold, while 26,287 day old chicks were hatched and sold in order to facilitate poultry production in the state.

Due to the old age of our incubators whose spare parts are unavailable, which continues to hinder optimum hatching process there is the need to procure modern incubators and parent stock in the centre.

Currently, the unit has culled the old spent layers and is in the process of replacing them with broilers.

The Ministry is also exploring the possibility of resuscitating its feed mill at the veterinary centre in order to bridge the gap of poultry feeds which is hindering the growth of poultry industry in the state.

RANGE MANAGEMENT

On the need to further boost livestock production in the State the State Government has intensified efforts in the provision of water for livestock through the construction of Earth Dams. So far 7 of such dams have been constructed within Grazing Reserves in the state. These include Kware, Gada, Tureta, Tambuwal and Silame Local Government.

The Government also re-demarcated Kardi Grazing Reserve in Tambuwal Local Government in order to prevent encroachment into Government landed property.

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

With the kind approval of His Excellency a training workshop was organized for practicing and prospective fish farmers in the state earlier this year. This has engendered an increased interest in fish farming and the formation of an Association of practicing fish farmers in the state.

Also a fishing season concept was introduced as a forum to bring together fishermen and the government with the aim of dialoguing and educating fishermen about government policy on fishing and acceptable and recommended gears. This became necessary in order to curb the dangerous practices which included the use of chemicals as well as small size fishing nets this was held at the Lugu Government fish pond.

The state pilot fish farm at Wamakko is being secured with a perimeter wall in an effort to modernize the centre towards making it an Aquaculture Technology transfer centre where vocational and management training to prospective and established farmers could take place.

The Ministry is also looking into the possibility of restocking our depleted water bodies with appropriate varieties of fingerlings.

The State Government is also in partnership with NACRDB (Farmer Bank) to provide simple accessibility to loan by fishermen and fish farmers. Already fishermen from Goronyo, S/Birni, KWare, Tambuwal and Wamakko have benefited, while those from Rabah, Yabo and Tureta are being processed. It is note worthy that the State Government has been consistent in redeeming its counterpart funding.

ADMINISTRATION

The adoption of the transfer policy of clinical year students of State origin from Scholarship into the State Service has greatly improved the enrollment of state indigenes into these rare fields Veterinary Medicine, Human Medicine and Engineering.

As a result presently there are 30 Veterinary Officers in the State Civil Service and 27 Clinical year Students of Sokoto State origin.