

## *F*oreword

The livestock sector plays a key role in the socioeconomic development of Kenya, providing livelihoods to about 13 million Kenyans. It provides food, employment, income and export revenue to farmers and other stakeholders in the industry. The Government is committed to providing a conducive environment, for the continued development of the livestock industry as contained in the Constitution of Kenya 2010, Vision 2030, Sessional Paper No. 2 of 2008, Agricultural Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy (2020-2025) and the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA). Further, in collaboration with sector stakeholders, it provides technical support to livestock stakeholders through preparation of extension materials.

The feed and nutrition security guidelines have been developed through a consultative process with livestock feed experts from the State Department for Livestock Development, the Kenya Agriculture and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO), Universities and the private sector. The main aim of the guidelines is to address the major feed challenges in the livestock sector and specifically ruminants which undergo perennial feed shortages due to; unreliable rainfall patterns, inadequate pasture and fodder conservation strategies, high cost of feed ingredients, overstocking, inappropriate grazing strategies amongst others. The cyclic occurrence and regularity of drought has further aggravated the already delicate livestock feed situation leading to loss of body condition and in some cases mortalities of livestock thus affecting livelihoods of pastoral populations. The economic losses realized from livestock body condition losses and mortalities have been estimated in excess of KES 37 billion during the prolonged drought of 2022. In recognition of the growing population, urbanization and improved incomes from an increasing middle-income class there is need to increase livestock productivity to support the increasing demand for animal protein. The role played by livestock in national and household economies should be enhanced to improve livelihoods of livestock keepers by promoting quality feed availability and accessibility throughout the year.

Targeted effort should be initiated towards addressing the immediate, medium and long-term livestock feed availability, utilization, accessibility and stability to shore up the economic losses realized from the regular livestock feed shortages. These guidelines will therefore expand the scope of livestock feed provision through enhancing the various livestock feed supply chains to march the feed demand for the various parts of the country. This will ensure sustained benefits to all stakeholders in the livestock feed value chain for improved livestock feed security.



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