

An assessment of the dairy value chain in northern Ghana; a step towards applying science and technology for economic growth

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Abstract

Livestock ownership is reported to support the livelihoods of an estimated 700 million people, approximately 70% of the world's rural poor population. The dairy cow is important because it provides rural farmers with a way to increase assets, a method to diversify farming activities, income and nutritious valuable milk. The purpose of this paper is to highlight key constraints as well as opportunities for growth in the dairy value chain with particular focus on the cattle dairy sector in Northern Ghana. Both secondary and primary data from the Northern and Upper East Regions of Ghana were collected covering the whole milk value chain from production to the market. From a detailed analysis and interpretation of information obtained from these sources, the paper provides an overview of the dairy sector in northern Ghana and highlights key issues such as gender and marketing dynamics. The study identifies a number of challenges facing the sector and the opportunities/potentials for the sector. The paper concludes with proposed technological innovations that can support the dairy chain for economic growth.

Keywords: dairy value chain, economic growth, Ghana