

### **Introductory and synthesis paper:**

**Title:** “Livestock in development: challenges in policy advocacy and the role of economic analysis”.

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An estimated 2 billion people worldwide depend on small-scale farming and agriculture for their subsistence and income (World Bank, 2008). The livestock sector currently represents about one third of agricultural value added in developing countries (FAOSTAT, 2013). Development policy for poverty reduction, and sustainable and resilient incomes, has traditionally focused on staple crops, and on key strategic crops. Analysis of such policy, and advocacy for its improvement, is then more attuned to the annual cycles of production and storage, and issues of household food self-sufficiency, than with the more complex asset-holding and social behaviour surrounding the production, holding, use and marketing of livestock. At programme or project level opinion has been divided on the efficacy of livestock in development (Ashley *et al.*, 1999), and empirical investigations have lacked empirical evidence (Wanyoike and Baker, 2013).

More than a third of the World’s poor are livestock producers and rely to some extent on livestock for food, incomes, crop cultivation and manure, and risk management (FAO, 2009). Most smallholder livestock keepers are to be found in Africa and Asia, where development of local livestock production may be seen as a useful vehicle for poverty reduction and enhanced food security. Livestock systems both compete with and complement household and agro-industrial crop production, but also are significant sources of greenhouse gases and threats to human health (FAO, 2012).

In this brief initial paper, the authors introduce the challenge faced by analysts of livestock-related policies, and the bifurcation of the existing database, and of the analytical state of the art. Most particularly, the gap between household-level analysis and economy-wide models is characterised. While presenting in detail the points summarised above, the contributions of the each of the papers in the special issue is outlined. The paper then focuses on the outstanding gaps in complementarities between household-level analyses on the one hand and multi-market, CGE and global models on the other. Recommendations are made for research and collaboration to fill these gaps, and for orientation of research toward policy needs. This paper is by the editors, **Dr Derek Baker and Dr Dolapo Enahoro**.

### **References:**

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