



Livestock Fact Check

Moving livestock debate forward with evidence-based credible facts

LD4D

LIVESTOCK DATA FOR DECISIONS

Introducing Livestock Data For Decisions...

To tackle livestock development challenges, including health and productivity improvements, we need data. Yet it is perceived that there is insufficient livestock data in Low to Middle Income countries.

LD4D, a global community of practice, has been established to improve connections between livestock data stakeholders. With a mission to **drive better livestock decision making through improved data and analytics**, LD4D is able to identify, prioritise and act upon livestock data challenges.

What do we do...?



LD4D in Naivasha, Kenya, Feb 2018

Share knowledge and data

Work towards solutions for identified challenges

Access to varied expertise

Training, capacity building and mentoring

Share tools, analytical outputs and methods

Regularly reevaluate and raise awareness

Why fact check?

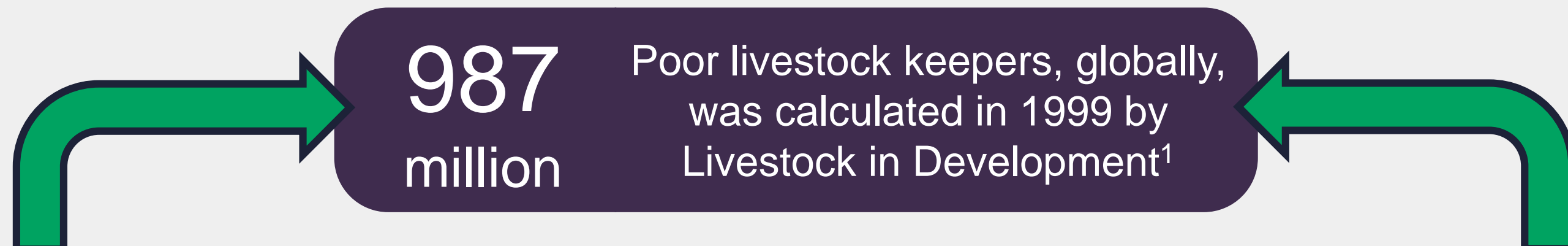
Some facts relating to livestock and economy, society and environment are regularly used in both academic and popular forum discussions. However, the origin, calculations and context of such facts are often not understood or recognised. When these facts are investigated it becomes apparent how much we really know, and how much we don't.

In response to this LD4D Livestock Fact Check investigates the provenance of a series of popular livestock facts. The objective of this exercise is to ensure discussions and decisions are well informed with appropriately interpreted facts; with gaps in knowledge recognised. The series of fact checks will promote discussion amongst livestock data stakeholders.



Do livestock support the livelihoods of around one billion poor people globally?

Where did the fact originate and how was it calculated?



This was based on livestock keeper distribution from Seré and Steinfeld (1996)², based on AGROSTAT(FAOSTAT1) 1991-1993...



...and poverty data from the UNDP (1997)³, based on World Resources Institute correspondence (1996).

Is the fact up-to-date and relevant?

- One billion is based on a 19 year-old calculation, using data up to 27 years-old.
- However rough this original calculation was, with increasing populations and changes to the definition of poor, the number is likely to have changed
- More recently other numbers have been suggested: 766 million⁵ and 556 million⁶
- Due to varying methods, definitions and data, the research identified cannot be used to suggest any trends
- In many instances this fact is used to give scale to the importance of livestock.

Is a 'rough' big number enough for this purpose...?

Other facts covered in the series



Livestock & Economy



Livestock & Zoonoses



Livestock Disease Eradication

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To download the full Livestock Fact Check series please visit: <https://ld4d.org/portfolio/livestock-fact-check/>

For more information about LD4D please visit ld4d.org

The Livestock Fact Check series was launched in June 2018 by LD4D secretariat SEBI (Supporting Evidence Based Interventions). We thank all our LD4D collaborators.

Every effort has been made to trace and report information accurately. We welcome comments, advice or questions (email: ld4d@ed.ac.uk)



References

- 1 Livestock in Development. 1999. Livestock in Poverty-Focused Development. By, Ashley, S., Holden, S. & Bazeley, P., Crewkerne, Somerset, UK.
- 2 Seré, C. & Steinfeld, H. 1996. World livestock production systems: Current status, issues and trends. FAO Animal Production and Health Paper. FAO, Rome.
- 3 UNDP. 1997. Human Development Report 1997. United Nations Development Programme, New York
- 4 FAOSTAT. 2018. FAOSTAT: Food and Agriculture Data. FAO. www.fao.org/faostat/en/#home
- 5 Robinson, T. P. et al., 2011. Global livestock production systems. FAO and ILRI, Rome.
- 6 Thornton, P. K. et al., 2002. Mapping Poverty and Livestock in the Developing World, Nairobi, Kenya, International Livestock Research Institute.