



Production of Quality Beef Meat in Uganda: Who Are the Actors and What Are the Governance Challenges

Patrick Okello and John Ilukor

Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock



ABSTRACT

The study examined the process of beef production from the farm to slaughter houses and abattoirs with the objective of mapping out the actors that are influential in production of quality beef meat as well as their relational patterns in order to identify possible intervention for ensuring production quality beef meat in Uganda. The results reveal that, the most influential actors in the production of quality beef are the cattle owners, veterinarians and cattle traders. The major governance challenges limiting the production of quality beef meat are collusion among or between the veterinarians, livestock owners, cattle traders and butcher man resulting to weakness in the enforcement and regulation, issuance of animal permits as well as challenges like political interference, weak and outdated livestock policies and limited availability of veterinarians.

BACKGROUND

The world food economy is being increasingly driven by the shift of diets and food consumption patterns towards livestock and livestock products, a trend described by Delgado, et al. (2001) as livestock revolution

- The annual consumption of meat in developed is expected to rise or increase by 17 percent by 2030.

The increase in meat consumption in tandem with production signals a better future for all the actors who depend on livestock for part of their livelihoods worldwide

- reduce malnutrition levels, source of income and a key to poverty eradication, increased overall farm productivity

However, there is emergent threat to extraction of the benefits of the livestock revolution arising from the negative publicity of animal and animal products related to green house emission, public health and food safety .

- On average of over 300 kg CO2-eq per kg of beef protein
- In Kampala City in Uganda, Bogere & Angubua Baluka (2014) established that 100%, 97.9%, 93.8%, 83.3% and 4.2% of samples tested positive for Aerobic Plate Counts (APCs), S. aureus, coliforms, E. coli and Salmonella respectively.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the study was to map out actors, examine their behaviours and interests in the production of quality beef. The specific objective are to:

- determine the point in the beef value chain where beef gets contaminated in the Uganda
- identify influential actors in production of quality beef meat in Uganda
- identify governance challenges and possible remedies for ensuring production of quality beef in Uganda

METHODS

- A participatory research methods such as FGDs and key informants were applied and mapping tool called Process Net-Map was used to map out actors, their influence and to elicit governance challenges limiting the production of quality beef meat in Uganda
- The application of Process Net-Map tool involved three phases. In Phase 1, respondents were asked in step by step procedure to describe the process of beef production and to identify the actors involved in each step. In Phase 2, defining influence level, phase 3 identification of problem areas

Table 1: Number and type of interviews in the Eight (8) main case study districts

District	Key Informant interview before FGD	FGD with net map	Key informant interview after FGD
Kampala	3	2	3
Nakasongola	2	1	5
Bukedea	15	1	2
Serere	12	1	3
Soroti	12	1	5
Katakwi	13	1	7
Kiruhura	15	2	3
Kiboga	8	1	2
Total	80	10	30



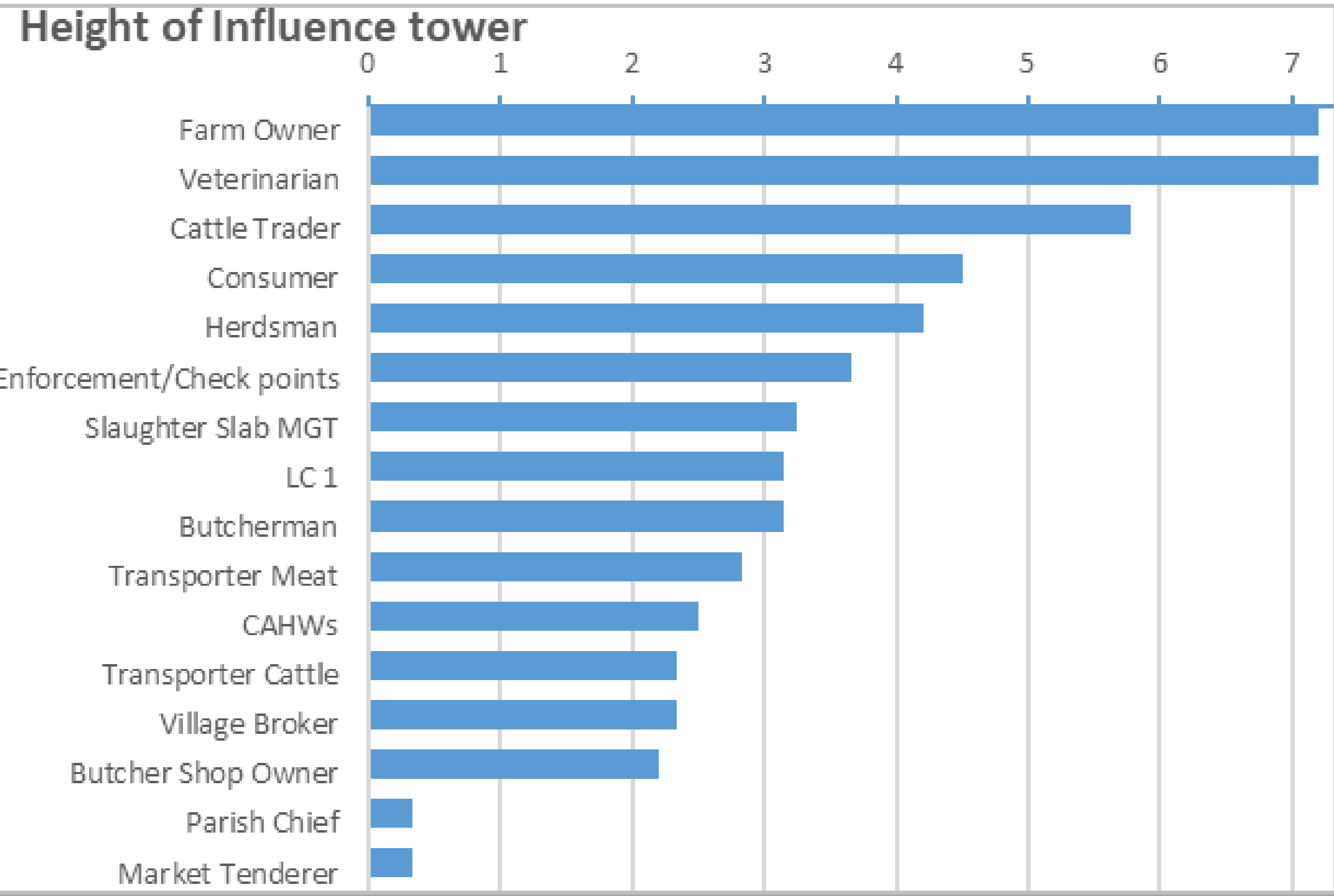
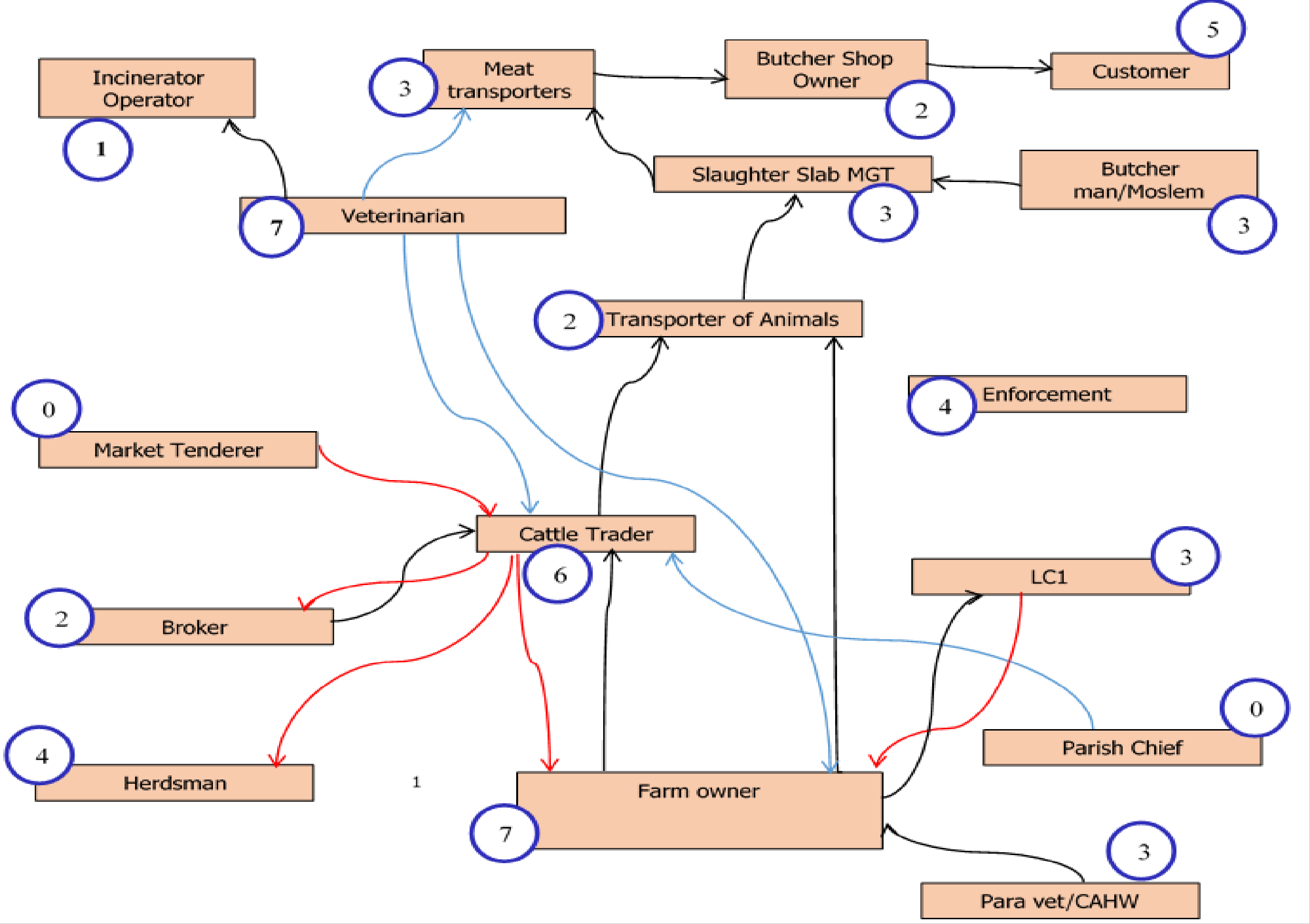
- Left: Is the FGD in progress while Right is the process netmap showing the “influence towers” of actors.

RESULTS

Results reveal that, the most influential actors in the production of quality beef are the cattle owner with mean score 7.4 and SD 2.6 followed by veterinarians with mean score of 7.1 and SD of 2.5 while the third is the cattle trader with mean of 4.7 and SD of 2.5. The least influential actors are the parish chiefs, market tenderers and the butcher shops. The study also identified the major governance challenges faced by the various actors in the production of quality beef meat as collusion, lack of enforcement and regulation, weaknesses in issuance of animal permits, political interference and limited availability of veterinarians.

RESULTS

Figure1: A network of actors involved in the delivery of Quality Beef in Uganda



CONCLUSIONS

- To improve beef quality, the study recommends review of the legislations and regulations governing production of the beef meat to provide the existing veterinarians with enough stick to regulation beef production and inspection. In addition, farmers or traders seeking for animal permits should only be given permits after seeing the animals and veterinarians or veterinary assistants should be assigned and available at slaughter facilities during and even after slaughter.