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The Cross-Border Livestock Trade in Kenya and Uganda in Comparison to the Albanian (European Union) Context

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Abstract: Agriculture is an economic pillar of many countries, regions and communities around the world. In 2018, agriculture accounted for 4% of global gross domestic product (GDP) and over 25% in the least developed countries. It is a primary source of food, income, nutrition, employment, and trade, and is projected to help reduce poverty, raise incomes and improve food security for over 80% of the world's poor, who live in rural areas and depend on farming. In Sub-Saharan Africa and the European Union (EU), agriculture is a key source of foreign exchange and a determinant of international relations through trade. However, agriculture is faced with myriad challenges which inhibit the performance of its crucial value chain components, i.e., production, distribution of commodities and the competitiveness of markets. A study focusing on the similarities and differences existing among Kenya, Uganda, and Albania (EU) cross-border trading was designed and undertaken in 2021 - 2022 with objectives of (i) comparing the livestock sector's development and market contexts; (ii) identifying the social, economic and political factors that influence cross-border livestock trade; and (iii) ascertaining similarities and differences that are important for the growth of the livestock sector in the countries of study. A comparative research design employing a mixed-method study approach was used and the data analysed both quantitatively and qualitatively. The study results showed that the greatest similarity between Kenya, Uganda and Albania is that are all Third-World countries with promising economies. Agriculture contributes significantly to their GDPs. The rural population is substantial and livestock plays a pivotal role in households' well-being. The countries belong to regional economic blocks and have similar livestock production and market-access constraints. The key differences include varying poverty and literacy levels, varying livestock farming systems with family farming advanced in Albania and less pronounced in Kenya and Uganda; varying GDPs and per capita incomes; varying foci, scopes of government policies, priorities and political decisions; varying agricultural financing; variable climates and factors of production. The study concludes that livestock production and marketing challenges in Kenya and Uganda are enormous and they affect cross-border market access efforts. In Albania, quality standards hinder access to EU and global markets. Strategic actions by governments, development partners and livestock farming communities are key in leveraging livestock sector development prospects.

Keywords: Livestock Marketing, International Trade, Livestock Policy, Quality Standards

1. Introduction

Livestock is a critical sector for the growth of the economies of many countries, regions and communities throughout the world [5, 8, 19]. In 2018, agriculture accounted for 4% of global gross domestic product (GDP) and over 25% in the least developing countries depending on farming. Agriculture is essential because it constantly provides food, income, nutrition, employment, and trade; it facilitates the socio-economic transformation of smallholder farmers' livelihoods; and is a source of capital for small and medium businesses. Through agriculture, it is projected that over 80% of the world's poor will realize an increase in their socio-economic well-being, a milestone important for alleviating poverty, food and income insecurity and improving nutrition status among populations. In Sub-Saharan Africa and European Union (EU), agriculture is a key source of foreign exchange and a determinant of international trade relations through market access [9, 11]. As market demand for animal-based products grows, animal agriculture steadily and significantly helps rural areas and farming communities improve their economies [9, 22].

The ongoing transformation of traditional livestock production and marketing systems towards commercialized farming is a significant late 20th-century paradigm shift for livestock sector development in the world. However, the far-reaching effects of social, economic, political and environmental factors considerably inhibit livestock sector development opportunities [12, 25]. The East African region has the largest livestock population compared with other African economic blocks, apart from poultry, where the West African region leads. This position brings with it a plethora of socioeconomic and market opportunities for states, entrepreneurs and livestock farming communities [1, 24].

Livestock production, marketing and environmental resources in African economies are largely undervalued due to the lack of competitive capacities [17, 19]. The dry but rich expansive rangelands of Karamoja in Uganda and Turkana in Kenya are ideal for mixed livestock farming systems. In East Africa, both Karamoja and Turkana regions lead in livestock populations and the number of households dependent on livestock [17, 23, 24].

Kenya, Uganda and Albania were chosen for this study because they are middle-income economies with diverse ethnic populations, cultures and livelihoods but comparable livestock production and marketing environments. These countries heavily rely on agriculture, services and manufacturing sectors to command their economies, which are primarily market-based and supported by a few state-owned firms. Livestock keeping is essential for the welfare of the majority of households.

This paper brings out the similarities and differences in livestock production and cross-border trade in Kenya, Uganda and Albania. This study's specific objectives encompassing the three countries are to (i) compare the livestock sector's development and market contexts; (ii) identify the social, economic and political factors that influence cross-border livestock trade; and (iii) ascertain similarities and differences that are important for the cross-learning and growth of the livestock sector in the countries of study.

The main research question is: "How do similarities and differences in livestock production practices, trade systems, challenges and market-access opportunities influence cross-border livestock trade in Turkana (Kenya), Karamoja (Uganda) and rural Albania (European Union)?"

2. Literature Review

2.1. Livestock Sector in Kenya, Uganda and Albania

Kenya's livestock industry contributes 12% to the national economy and engages 50% of the state's agricultural labour. Kenya's drylands produce 70% of its livestock, benefiting more than 16 million pastoralists in 18 of its 20 Arid and Semi Arid counties. The country's livestock sector is anticipated to grow significantly over the next three decades, resulting in a developed rural and pastoral economy [14, 15]. However, recurrent and prolonged droughts, causing massive losses in livestock, environment, and livelihoods, remain a huge hindrance to livestock farming in Kenya, Uganda and many Sub-Saharan African regions [15, 19].

Cattle and chicken output in Uganda are predicted to increase by 94% and 375%, respectively, by 2050 [8]. With a per capita gross domestic product (GDP) of approximately US $910 (in 2021), Uganda has a mostly agricultural economy. Urban dwellers account for 22% of the country's population of 45.7 million people. Smallholder farmers dominate agriculture, which accounts for around 25% of the GDP, 71% of employment and 54% of export value. Therefore, livestock initiatives increase the viability of rural areas, where 41.7% of the population, particularly in the pastoral communities of the Karamoja Sub-Region, face the worst of the burden of hunger due to permanent poverty [8, 17].

Albania is a European middle-income country with a Mediterranean climate, better adapted to animal production than crop development [3, 6, 10]. Albania's agriculture development strategy is fuelled by membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (OBSEC) to strengthen its access to the European Union and global markets [16].

2.2. The Role of Livestock in the Development of States

The intensification of agricultural investments and projects worldwide significantly contributes to states' and regions' social and economic development prospects [22, 23]. Since farming is still a big part of the growth of rural areas, strengthening community empowerment and gender integration helps people understand how agricultural investments and market systems affect the economy [19].

Pastoralism, the predominant production system and philosophy of life of the majority of the populations in dryland areas, is highly dependent on the availability of environmental resources and the regularity of rainy seasons. Its success and longevity also depend on the seasonal resilience capabilities that are built and used through community-managed disaster risk reduction and development plans [2, 7, 20].

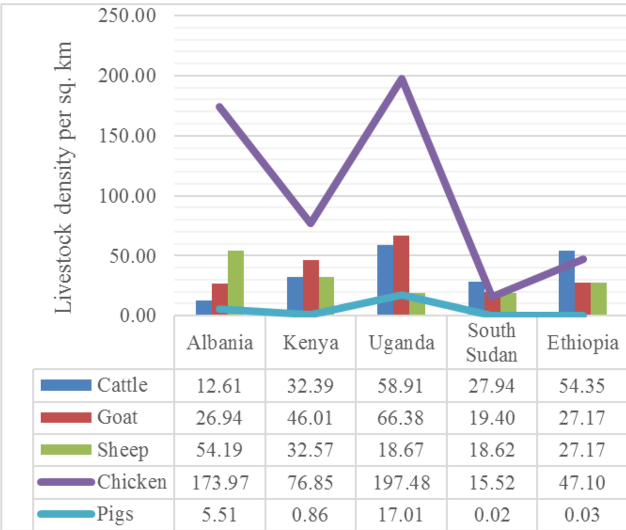
A report on the global economy, food security and nutrition, published by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and other subsidiaries of the United Nations in 2017 pinpoints agriculture as a means for building community resilience for peace and food security, which are important for season-long production and sustained access to markets and livelihood opportunities [9].

2.2.1. Performance of Cross-Border Livestock Commerce

In Eastern Africa, cross-border commerce is expected to facilitate the transfer of livestock-based goods and services across local and regional markets [2, 13]. Although the greater part of cross-border trade in Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia and South Sudan is unauthorized, it is a success story for the livestock industry, pastoral communities and corporations.

The cross-border model of livestock trade and the critical market forces are less understood by the majority of stakeholders. The mode of trade is highly regulated, bureaucratic and made expensive by heavy taxation and stringent border regulations [1, 24]. Although much of the cross-border livestock trade in Turkana (Kenya), Karamoja (Uganda), Eastern Equatorial State (South Sudan) and South Omo (Ethiopia) is undocumented, it is believed to be worth more than US $61 million annually, with only 10% (approximately) of it passing through official trade channels; hence, it is an undefined market economy [19].

Compared with East African countries and Albania in terms of livestock population per sq. km, Uganda emerges first because it produces the highest number of poultry. Albania holds the second position, Kenya and Ethiopia rank third and fourth, respectively, while South Sudan comes last, just because a livestock census has been required since the country gained its independence in 2011. The figures used by the government of South Sudan are estimates. The distribution of the livestock species per unit area (in sq. km) is presented in the figure below (Figure 1).



	Albania	Kenya	Uganda	South Sudan	Ethiopia
Cattle	12.61	32.39	58.91	27.94	54.35
Goat	26.94	46.01	66.38	19.40	27.17
Sheep	54.19	32.57	18.67	18.62	27.17
Chicken	173.97	76.85	197.48	15.52	47.10
Pigs	5.51	0.86	17.01	0.02	0.03

Figure 1. *Livestock densities per Sq.km.*

2.2.2. Livestock Production and Marketing in Rural Areas

The substantiality of food, nutrition and income in livestock production areas is increased through improved access to production opportunities and markets. The harmonization of strategies for dryland development, the formulation and implementation of pro-livestock development policies and interventions, and the increase in pastoralists' access to potential markets all support the organization of livestock development activities in drylands [16-18]. Family farming in rural areas of Albania has been shown to be a good way to give families the tools they need to raise livestock with precision, think about resource economics, and make sure their access to food and income security programs will last [4, 6].

Pastoral areas are prone to challenges that hinder the growth of livestock development initiatives. With the right capacity for resilience, livestock producers can improve the productivity of their animals and environment, as well as their ability to compete in local and regional markets [14, 18].

Studies on trends and challenges in the Albanian livestock sector show that the development of resilient urban food systems through organized rural and urban livestock keeping reinforces pathways for winning acceptance of livestock products in the highly regulated markets [11, 12]. The standardization of approaches to managing livestock development will leverage the value of the manufactured products, which can accelerate their aggregation, distribution and consumption, based on the bargaining power of the entrepreneurs in the market [6, 12].

2.2.3. Livestock Market Access Guidelines and Standards

Health and safety are heavily regulated food system aspects in livestock production, marketplaces, product value-chain handling and added value [21]. The popularity of One Health, a collaborative, multispectral and transdisciplinary approach that integrates human, livestock and environmental health for safety purposes, strengthens its role as a policy element for livestock product development, transfer, trading and consumption.

Food safety consciousness among livestock value-chain actors strengthens the application of health and safety standards in the management of livestock and livestock products and consumption practices [10]. Equally, the FAO emphasizes the importance of healthy living; a huge amount of knowledge, skills and good practices in agriculture has been generated and implemented globally through the FAO's and its affiliates' diverse projects, focusing on policy support, inclusivity, resilience of agricultural livelihoods, human nutrition and environmental conservation and management [9, 25].

The governments of Kenya and Uganda have formulated veterinary public health and safety regulations that guide the manufacturing, handling, trading and consumption of livestock products. These regulations are institutionalized in livestock development and legislative frameworks. In Albania, problems with the livestock market include the lack of a permanent market, the high cost of transporting goods, the lack of processing businesses, and the lower quality of products compared to imported ones. Access to common markets is also limited by food and safety laws made in Albania and the European Union [3, 4].

In Albania, the Food Law No. 9863 of January 28, 2008, governs hygiene, food safety, animal feed standards and general guidelines. This law is harmonized with European Union Regulation 178/2002. Milk Law No. 9441 which was promulgated on November 11, 2005, regulates milk production, collection, processing and marketing through value chain market systems [9, 10].

Several legal and regulatory frameworks have been made for livestock in Kenya and Uganda. These frameworks cover components like livestock health, production, and marketing, but enforcement is still hard because of a lack of resources, misplaced services and corporate priorities, slow technological progress, and systems inefficiencies [1, 15, 19].

European Union is a potential export market for various meat value chains. There is also a potential market for hides and skins [10]. Albania as a livestock-producing country in the European Union and by being a member of various trade organizations, can competitively secure a substantial space in the potential markets within the EU [4, 10]. Botswana is a successful case in Southern Africa that has ventured European Union market through the supply of beef products. The competitive advantage built by Botswana and Ethiopia depends on the ability to produce healthy livestock resources, adhere to international safety standards of products destined for markets and penetrate potential markets through strategies such as business mergers, partnerships and compliance [19, 22].

2.2.4. Theoretical and Conceptual Frameworks

This research study is premised on Porter's Diamond Model, which is one of the contemporary theories used to shape approaches to international trade. On the growth of international commerce, in 1990, Harvard University Professor Michael E. Porter created a national competitive advantage model to explain that industry's inventions and advancement determine a country's industrial competitiveness, enhanced through local market resources and competencies, local market demand circumstances, local suppliers and adjacent businesses, and local business features' determinants as presented in the figure below (Figure 2).

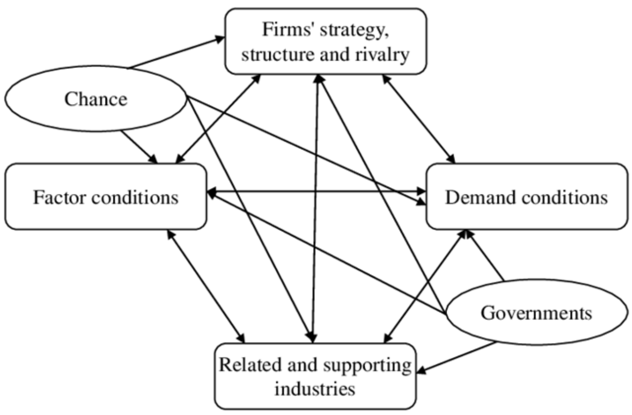


Figure 2. *Porters Diamond Model Framework.*

The theoretic model underpins the importance of factor conditions and farm strategy, structure and rivalry, demand factors, and related and supporting industries influenced by chance and government policy. As a result, Kenya, Uganda and Albania will be able to understand the competitive advantages they possess, the industry factors available to them and their governments' catalytic role in improving livestock industry performance, especially in rural areas and similar cross border contexts.

Cross-border trade depends heavily on the competitive and comparative advantages of states to penetrate cross-border and international markets. In the context of Uganda, Kenya, and Albania, as developing economies, understanding economic and political factors which include relations and protocol, and engaging in international business affairs, are pertinent for nurturing the potentiality of the agriculture sector and partners among states.

Social, economic, political, environmental, technological and legal aspects of agriculture present a diversity of factors that influence the performance of livestock production and marketing initiatives for the well-being of states and economies of livestock-dependent populations. Figure 3 shows the important variables for livestock production and trade in the study areas that are independent, dependent, and intervening (in between variables).

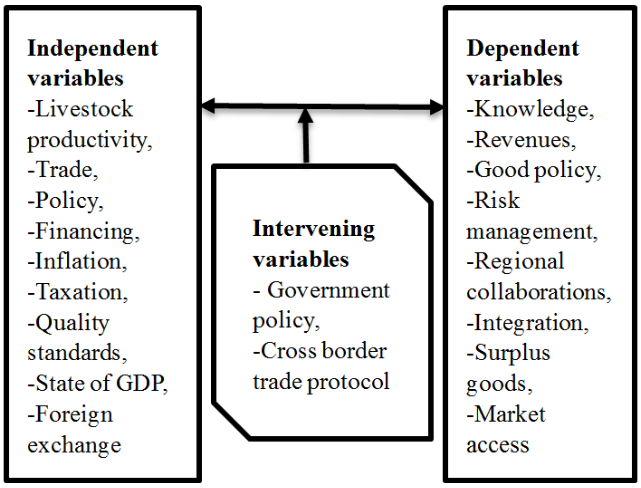


Figure 3. *Conceptual Framework and Variables.*

3. Methodology

3.1. Research Design and Sampling

A comparative research design was used to investigate, explain and gain a better understanding of the similarities and differences in cross-border livestock trade contexts in Kenya, Uganda, and Albania. A mixed-method approach was applied in data collection, strongly backed by secondary literature sources. The way the study was set up also made it possible to compare the social and economic factors of the livestock sector, historical events, and the current state and changing nature of cross-border trade in Sub-Saharan Africa and the European Union market.

The research sites were Lokiriama (2°45'26"N, 34°52'37"E) and Oropoi (3°46'0"N, 34°13'59"E) in Turkana, Kenya, and Nakiloro (2°37'3"N, 34°13'59"E) and Kaabong (3°31'12"N, 34°7'12"E) in Karamoja Sub-Region, Uganda, and Albania (41°19'39"N, 19°49'8"E); GPS coordinates of Titana City.

The study sample was calculated statistically using a 95% confidence level, a 2% margin of error (confidence interval), and a population proportion of 50%. The target population was 479 livestock traders. This resulted in a sampling frame of 400. A generator of random numbers was used to generate non-repeating random numbers i.e., 50% of the sampling frame. This led to an actual study sample of 200 people, distributed as 50% in both Kenya and Uganda i.e., 100 respondents per country. Twenty government and civil society livestock development experts, i.e., 10 from each country, were chosen (purposively) to take part in the study.

The cross-border study area shows that the targeted livestock production areas and markets are adjacent to the Kenya and Uganda international borderlines. Animals and people move across the border to access production resources i.e., water, pastures, and markets as well as the purchase of non-pastoral commodities in the trading centers along the border. In borderline areas, pastoralists have a hard time raising livestock, getting to markets, feeling safe, and getting enough social services because of problems at the borders.

The fact that there are no gazetted border routes along the Karamoja and Turkana border areas restricts pastoralists' and livestock traders' movements and access to potential cross-border livestock production sites, shared markets and essential social humanity services. The figure below (Figure 4) shows the bordering pastoral regions of Karamoja, Uganda and Turkana Kenya and the study areas.

Figure 4. Map showing study areas in Karamoja (Uganda) and Turkana (Kenya).

3.2. Data Collection and Analysis

Semi-structured and structured questionnaires were administered to livestock traders (primary participants) and government and civil society organizations' representatives (secondary participants) in both Kenya and Uganda. Quantitative and qualitative questions in the research tools were in line with the study objectives. The aim was to determine the similarities and differences in livestock production and trade in the three countries, as well as the scale of the factors influencing local and cross-border trade in the economic regions where each country belongs. The secondary participants were interviewed about livestock production and marketing contexts, government policies on livestock development, product safety regulations, and local and cross-border trade protocol, challenges and opportunities.

The methodological approach for Albania was primarily based on an analysis and interpretation of the quantitative and qualitative information contained in the secondary literature published by the Albanian Ministry of Agriculture, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and several scholars, with a strong focus on Albanian livestock economy and development, trade and markets, and regulations for access to European Union and global markets.

Science for Policy reports from the European Union's Joint Research Centre (JRS) were utilized to triangulate and validate the desk review data on Albania. The data collected in Kenya, Uganda and Albania were examined and analyzed using descriptive statistics for numeric data, and narrative data were analyzed qualitatively. The participatory rural appraisal tools used included interviews, visualization, and ranking and scoring techniques. Each was backed by secondary literature and the triangulation and validation of the results.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1. Analysis of Turkana and Karamoja Contexts

4.1.1. Socioeconomic Characteristics of Study Participants

Out of the 220 study participants (primary and secondary participants) in Kenya and Uganda, 56% were male, and 53.5% were married at the time of the study or had previously been married. In this sample, 82.7% were 18 - 40 years old, comprising the most active age group engaged in livestock herding, trading and community protection. Moreover, 75% of the participants were actively involved in the season-long livestock trade.

The fact that 55% of cross-border livestock traders had diversified their livelihoods was a significant development, especially for pastoralists who heavily relied on livestock for their well-being. Only 5% of livestock traders over the age of 50 were involved in cross-border livestock commerce. Traders between 18 and 40 years old were the ones that bought animals from production areas and transported them to potential marketplaces. Despite this, the study found that the elderly respondents (those over the age of 50) were well-versed about the challenges of rural livestock production systems, cattle rustling, cross-border livestock trade, and government and civil society development strategies.

While the culture of Uganda's Karamojong and Kenya's Turkana communities is still slow in allowing women to participate in male-dominated fields, civil society activities have resulted in about 20% of women in both regions owning livestock and businesses. Additionally, 80% of those polled (primary participants) were illiterate, with only 5% having attended basic school and only 2% having finished secondary or tertiary education. All the secondary participants were university graduates in the livestock development fields of production, range management, veterinary, marketing, policy and extension.

In Albania, 1.7 million people (about 50% of the population) were involved in subsistence livestock and crop farming activities in rural areas, mainly mountainous and hilly terrains. Families provided 90% of farm labour. It was estimated that 18% of the crops and 30% of the livestock products reached the markets [3]. According to World Bank projections for 2020, Albania's poverty rate was 37%, and its literacy rate was 98.14%.

4.1.2. Socio-Political Dimensions of Cross-Border Trade

In Turkana County, Kenya, and Karamoja Sub-Region, Uganda, 77% of the study participants indicated border controls as the key socio-political cause of cross-border disputes. Ethnic conflicts and inadequate animal production resources impeded cross-border livestock trading, as reported by 75% and 72.5% of the participants, respectively. Furthermore, 69% of the respondents blamed political and economic marginalization for the absence of government support for cross-border livestock trade, with both Kenyan and Ugandan governments (in some instances) perceiving drylands as unproductive, insecure, areas of hardship, and insignificantly contributing to national GDP's.

According to 69.25% of the respondents, recurrent and prolonged droughts damage pastoralists' natural resources and livelihoods, putting animals and people in danger of starvation, stress and resource-based conflicts. Cattle rustling, unlicensed firearms and border disputes were all cited as obstacles to cross-border livestock trading by 67%, 66.5% and 66% of the respondents, respectively. Inhibitors of cross-border commerce in Kenyan and Ugandan livestock trade corridors were severe, according to the 2.8 average (mean) of the analyzed variables, representing 70% of the respondents, as presented in Figure 5.

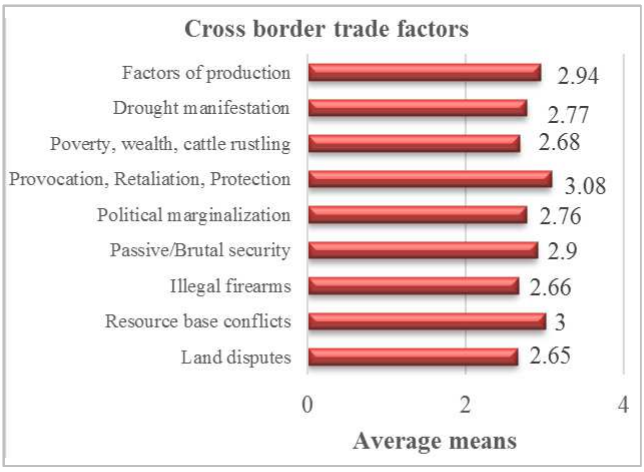


Figure 5. *Dimensions of Cross-border trade.*

4.1.3. Relations of Livestock Trade Contexts and Performance

According to 67.5% of the respondents in both Turkana and Karamoja livestock markets, cross-border livestock trade negatively affected domestic livestock production and trade, while 68.5% of the respondents believed that cross-border conflicts resulted from competing for market share, a scenario that was stagnating the development of those areas along international borderlines. Because of minimal government presence in the wide border territories of Turkana, Karamoja, and many other livestock-producing zones and trade corridors in Eastern Africa, 62.75% of the participants believed that pervasive violent activities restricted access to several markets, leading to their non-functionality and low trading.

Regarding conflicts and their impacts on humanity, 78.75% and 69.5% of the respondents, respectively, believed that cross-border conflicts contributed to human rights abuses and human suffering. Moreover, 67.25% of the respondents reported the loss of lives and properties as a painful price that livestock keepers and traders pay for keeping livestock and engaging in trade across borders. The 2.7 average (mean; highest score = 4.0) for the parameters assessed indicated that 68% of livestock producers and traders in Turkana and Karamoja felt the negative effects of cross-border trade on their well-being and relations, as depicted in Figure 6 below.

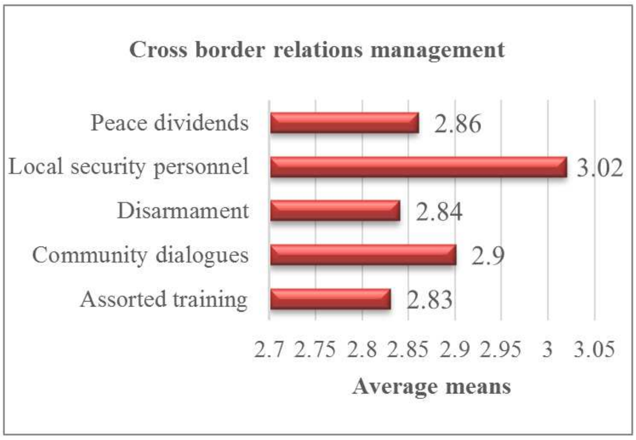


Figure 6. *Cross border trade relations management.*

4.2. Results of Literature Review on Albania Context

The desk review showed agriculture as the second highest source of employment in Albania, after the services industry, and it is a substantial source of revenue for Albania, accounting for around 22.6% of the country's GDP [3, 11]. In Albania, agriculture is a capital-intensive, small-scale industry [10]. The majority of small-scale farmers and companies lack access to market outlets due to underdeveloped technology, inadequate knowledge capacity and limited availability of input in the formal business cooperation frameworks [10, 11].

Similar to the rural areas of Kenya and Uganda, farmers in Albania embrace family livestock farming as a means of building family self-reliance, developing rural economies and structuring rural livestock farming and trade systems [4, 6, 7]. Albania's ability to compete in regional and global markets is hurt by its lack of systems for keeping livestock in cities, rules and standards for food safety, and regulations from the government and European Union on resilient food systems in cities [8, 10, 12].

The Sustainable Agriculture Support for Albania project of the Suisse Development Corporation increased the agricultural sector's performance by ensuring the long-term viability of agricultural production systems [3, 11]. The progress intentions were heavily backed by several research outputs on livestock development. These included strong recommendations advocating the use of safety measures to standardize livestock disease control approaches and the safety of livestock products destined for markets [6, 21].

It is also emphasized that prudent use of water and forage resources for effective livestock production elucidates the gaps in livestock production in developing countries, with policies and investments as game changers [10, 17]. The research outputs on the global economy indicate the current trends in global food security; their findings and recommendations continue to stimulate agricultural investments in developing economies, with the United Nations and civil society's support for using agriculture as a means of achieving sustainable development goals [5, 9].

It is evident that marketing agricultural products in Albania remain a critical difficulty [3]. The outstanding global and regional recommendations for livestock development include the intensification of livestock production activities through the involvement of communities and public-private sector collaboration; making agriculture market-oriented with gender empowerment and integration, and adoption and replication of the safety guidelines. These present huge opportunities for Albania's livestock sector transformation [2, 14, 18, 22].

The focus for Albania's livestock sector, as it is for Kenya and Uganda, is to strengthen policies and investments that can ensure the achievement of the sought-after quality and quantity of products; adherence to national, regional and global trade regulations; and the building of consumer trust and sound partnerships among market stakeholders [3]. Albania's agricultural contribution to its GDP had dropped by roughly 28% since 1996 [2]. Albania has more than three million sheep and goats, significant for the market.

Despite advances in the livestock sector, pasture production and management methods are still insufficient [3, 11]. Reforming animal husbandry techniques, information system management, and the safety and reliability of food systems requires multi-institutional efforts. The successful development of the economic sector requires competitive and well-harmonized approaches, which are critical for diversification, complexity and the creation of competitive and comparative advantages for Albania to venture successfully into the targeted markets [16, 17].

Kenya, Uganda and Albania can use the policy frameworks to upscale their livestock development initiatives. Albania's proximity to the developed economies of Europe and the strategic addenda of the European Union can accelerate its livestock transformative plan compared with those of Kenya and Uganda, which may take longer to realize meaningful change. Inadequate land is a huge limitation to the expansion of agricultural investments in Albania. Even though Albania is a member of trade groups in Europe and around the world, it still has a long way to go to meet the quality standards required by the European Union and global markets [11].

4.3. Cross-Border Livestock Trade Management Strategies

According to the study, 75.5% of the respondents thought that deploying local security officers at Kenya's and Uganda's border areas is the most effective strategy for managing cross-border socioeconomic relations. The Kenya National Police and the National Police Reservists of Kenya, as well as the Uganda People's Defense Forces and the Anti-Stock Theft Unit Personnel of Uganda, are part of the government machinery to improve stability and security in the border areas. Of the respondents, 72.5% considered cross-border community dialogues are essential for strengthening relations and facilitating cross-border trade activities.

Peace dividends by stakeholders, such as those who manage schools, hospitals, grazing fields, water resources, business activities and markets, not only improve the mutuality of cross-border communities with similar characteristics but also instil a culture of reciprocity in relations. Training, particularly in the areas of peace and development, livelihood and trade, was viewed as catalytic by 70.75% of the respondents. According to them, the training should cover strategic issues of cross-border trade and opportunities, peaceful coexistence and socioeconomic prosperity of communities living in the border areas. Even though peace incentives are a good way to deal with interactions across borders, 71% of the participants thought that voluntary disarmament was a good way to improve peace and security among livestock-keeping and trading communities.

In Uganda, the study participants emphasized the negative aspects of forced disarmament, including torture and extortion by the government machinery, as well as violations of human rights for those who delay surrendering their small firearms. The adverse effects of the cross-border livestock trade management strategies commonly used in Eastern Africa are balanced by the positive outcomes, as evident in the number of recorded successes. These include the stabilization of livestock production areas and trade corridors, which allows a large number of livestock traders in Turkana, Kenya, and Karamoja, Uganda, to access cross-border livestock markets, as clearly presented in Figure 7, depicting cross-border trade management strategies.

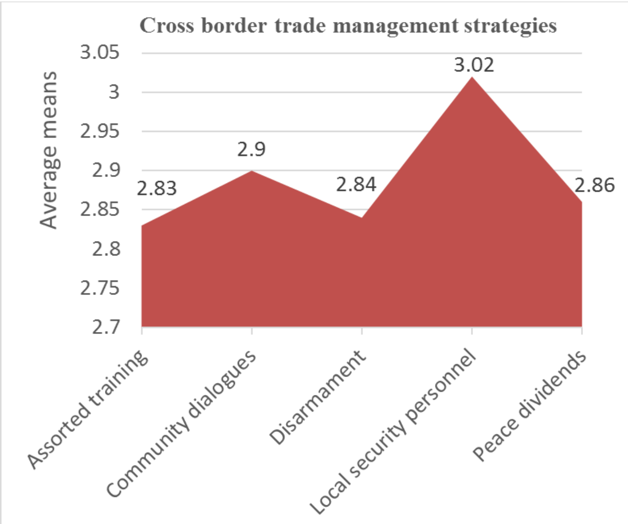


Figure 7. *Cross border trade management strategies.*

Climate change and the variability of the seasons are worsening the pastoral production systems, quality and quantity of livestock and products used at community and household levels and supplied to the market. It has also reduced economic returns accruable from livestock trade activities. In the East Africa region, failed rains and prolonged drought periods are diminishing the viability of pastoral rangelands and the productivity of livestock resources. Cross-border trade and pastoralists' migration to areas of pasture and water potential has been the main survival strategy. Pastoralists in Turkana especially those residing along the Karamoja and Turkana border migrate to Uganda for gracing. For them, Uganda has become both a dry season grazing area.

5. Conclusion

Marginality, enormous poverty, harsh climatic conditions, insecurity and traditional livestock farming techniques characterize the Karamoja, Uganda and Turkana, Kenya pastoral regions. Although significant numbers of livestock are produced in the rich and diversified rangeland ecosystems, cross-border livestock trade is a difficult venture. Kenya, Uganda and Albania continue to face obstacles in leveraging cross-border trade opportunities, which are important areas for development, investment and research.

Livestock production and marketing in Kenya and Uganda exhibit several similarities to those in Albania, where livestock production is the country's second-largest economic activity and the largest in rural communities that heavily rely on livestock keeping for socioeconomic well-being. As a result of limited export commerce and the European Union's quality regulations, Albania's livestock market is mostly domestic. Rural areas continue to host 46% of the country's population as agriculture employs 40.2% of the workforce in comparison to 40.4% in the service industry. In Albania, agriculture accounts for 22.6% of the GDP, demonstrating that the country's economy is still predominantly rural.

Albania is a relatively small country compared with Kenya and Uganda, but its GDP per capita is approximately US $5,215, making it an interesting economy to study. Smallholder producers dominate the livestock sector in all three countries, and livestock is a major source of family income. While trade protocols in the East African Community and other regional and global business organizations have benefited Kenya and Uganda, since the signing of the Central European Free Trade Agreement in 2006, Albania's export increased between 34–144% with 78% of agricultural products sold in the European Union market [3].

Despite the numerous benefits of cross-border livestock trade in Kenya (specifically Turkana) and Uganda (specifically Karamoja), the nature of border areas and the dynamics involved based on the diversity of protocols, cultures, practices and rivalries, this research study concludes that sensitive issues may affect development initiatives if mutually beneficial relations are not used as buffers for coordination and linkages. Albania's access to potential European Union markets is severely hampered by health and quality regulations.

Through technological advances and the competitiveness of livestock programs, Albania, with its strong focus on livestock production, may achieve a significant market share in the European Union and global markets. Legislative guidelines, healthy competition, the scale of fiscal resources, quality standards and cross-border trade dynamics are critical determinants of market penetration by emerging economies aiming to commercialize livestock production and product value chains across their borders.

According to the research output, livestock production is the backbone of the economies of Kenya, Uganda and Albania. It provides food, nutrition and income to the vast majority of households. The livestock production systems in the three nations under consideration are characterized by pastoralism and intensive family-farming systems. The transformation of livestock production and marketing systems is on the rise due to the growth in demand for livestock-based products in several market categories. As matter of fact, Kenya and Uganda are two of the top livestock producers in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Among other European countries, Albania has likewise made the most of livestock production as a source of income. Significant livestock numbers in Kenya, Uganda and Albania indicate a potential for animal agriculture, and livestock farming provides a source of income for many communities. For livestock production, marketing and consumption product value chain and health and safety regulations, are crucial. These regulations influence the performance of local and cross-border trade to a large extent.

The study shows that 18–40-year-old livestock farmers and merchants in Karamoja, Uganda and Turkana, Kenya are the most active in the cross-border livestock trade. However, their competitiveness is hampered by a 20% average literacy rate and an 84% poverty rate. While there are obstacles to cross-border livestock trading between countries and communities, local and regional capacities to structure, organize and manage cross-border interactions can help strengthen and sustain cross-border business activities.

The Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the East African Community (EAC), intrastate and interstate trade agreements, and similarities among communities living along border areas are all ways to improve cross-border livestock trade between Kenya and Uganda, and by extension, other East African countries. The similarities in the livestock economies in Kenya, Uganda and Albania are outstanding and knowledge exchange from one country to another can be used to improve livestock development initiatives among them.

6. Theoretical and Practical Implications

For Kenya and Uganda, the development of pathways and strategies for protecting the livelihoods of pastoralists, peri-urban livestock producers and traders can be realized through brokering resource-sharing agreements, facilitating peace development incentives, training and capacity building to resolve conflicts and promoting development in the border areas. Governments will be able to work together to overcome border-related challenges by fostering stability that can unite communities through the rule of law; improving roads and telecommunications; strengthening border security; and supporting the formulation of development and contingency plans to leverage livestock resources, livestock keepers, and business endeavors during times of uncertainty.

Governments will be able to develop and ratify cross-border livestock trade policies, introduce agricultural financing and increase livestock keepers' and entrepreneurs' access to credit. The reopening of the Lomidat slaughterhouse in Lokichoggio (Turkana County) will create a tertiary livestock market in the region that can absorb surplus livestock for slaughter and create different product value chains and consumption outlets. Kenya and Uganda should review their livestock sector policies to ensure that production and market pillars are strengthened and interlinked. The stakeholders participating in the production and marketing of livestock and livestock products also need to be guided to ensure that the needs of producers and the market are well served.

The achievements of Albania, a small country with a small population and with higher literacy rates and GDP per capita compared with Kenya and Uganda, show how state policies can transform the social, economic, political, and environmental aspects of a country for effective development. East African countries can learn from these successes to give people more power and make agriculture and business ideas stronger.

Albania's agricultural development plan includes increasing government programs to empower rural livestock keepers to produce more livestock resources from high-potential rural areas. The Albanian government needs to invest in the avenues for technological advances to strengthen innovation and added value in livestock and livestock product development in order to meet the high quality and safety standards of the European Union and other essential global markets. This can happen faster if money is put into the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF), which is a tool that ensures food safety for consumers.

The agriculture sector in Albania should develop networks with globally renowned scientific organizations for the effective formulation and implementation of livestock policies and for the attainment of competitive and comparative advantages in the European Union market. Albania can increase cross-border livestock trade with its neighboring countries, i.e., Greece, Macedonia, Serbia, Montenegro, Bulgaria, and Kosovo. This goal is based on the fact that cross-border economic activities are managed in a sustainable way that people are more aware of how important health and safety standards are for livestock market access, and that livestock products are more competitive in different markets.

7. Areas for Future Research and Development

The goal of this study was to determine similarities and differences in livestock production and cross-border trade in Kenya, Uganda, and Albania. Although the study's results show significant similarities and differences, a more in-depth analysis using real data on livestock and livestock products trading across borders, foreign exchange earnings, the impact of cross-border trade on GDPs, and the socioeconomic development of livestock-keeping communities will show additional relations created as a result of cross-border livestock trade.

While this research study focused on the markets closer to international borders, this does not mean that livestock markets located far from international borders are unaffected by cross-border commerce factors. A more comprehensive study that looks at the needs of different industrial and consumer markets could help improve and change both domestic and international trade.

Although the study sample was statistically significant, the changing dynamics of livestock trade across borders require the continuous engagement of all livestock traders, supported by research to understand broader views and perspectives on this mode of trade. Future research to increase the number of participating stakeholders includes expanding the investigation to facilitate holistic studies on local, cross-border, and global livestock markets.

The comparative analysis research design was appropriate for this study's purpose. While research data were collected from Kenya and Uganda, a desk review was conducted in the case of Albania, which was significant for the research purpose, and objectives, and for answering the key research question. Future research developments involving the same or similar countries and contexts for comparison of similarities and differences are required. With this method, the study’s findings and interpretations of the results will be stronger, and the conclusions will be clearer.

The research investigation was conducted between October 2021 and April 2022, when the COVID-19 pandemic was still a public health concern in Kenya and Uganda, and even Albania. A prerequisite was compliance with preventive measures such as immunization, testing, and social distancing while interacting with the public. Due to the stringent COVID-19 restrictions imposed, the number of study participants per session was reduced, which may have affected the study participants' responses and the data collected from the field.

After the COVID-19 pandemic, broader consultations with livestock traders, governments, and civil society will generate insights that will reinforce knowledge on the research subject. This study did not receive funding from any outside source. The research design, operational plan, and logistics were all accomplished, and the costs were shouldered despite limited resources. However, the topic of cross-border trade is broad and requires further research to exploit all its aspects. In other situations where similar research will be done, funding and planning are needed to get more out of the research projects.

In the cases of Kenya and Uganda, the collected data on cross-border trade was substantial for the purposes of this study. The European Union's assessments of Albania's livestock sector and regional markets provided the necessary data, findings, and recommendations for the Albanian government to improve its livestock economy. But for the sake of objectivity, cross-border livestock trade needs to be based on specialized studies on cross-border trade, regional integration and development, and international policies for trade and cross-border relations.

The vast majority of the gathered data provides a long-term vision, valuable insights, and actionable recommendations. The collected data is sufficient to support the proposals and generalizations made in this study. Future studies should further investigate the application of such recommendations and action areas to determine the efficacy and impact they can have on the livestock sector in drylands and similar production contexts.

The potential cross-cultural biases in Kenya, Uganda, and Albania, which include the diversity of livestock production intentions, influence the scope of cross-border livestock trade. In the Turkana and Karamoja regions, livestock production for sociocultural purposes still supersedes market intentions. The enlightenment of the majority of rural livestock producers and the promising European Union market are huge incentives for livestock sector growth in Albania. Future studies should determine the sociocultural needs of the livestock-keeping communities vis-à-vis the market-access needs. This approach to research will empower the traditional economies of the majority of livestock producer groups to produce with the market, innovation, and resilience strategies in mind.

Using the East Africa Community (EAC) cross-border trade agreements and the finalized Transhumance Development Plan (TDP) between Kenya and Uganda, the IGAD Center for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD) is spearheading the TDP for replication by the remaining member states, including the management of the land jurisdictional issues surrounding the proposed potential livestock production sites and trade routes in the EAC member states. This development can reinforce the cross-border trade among the EAC countries and uplift the economy of the EAC region. Such trade agreements and cross-border trade activities and relationships need to be studied more, changed, and set up in a certain way to help the EAC develop a robust livestock economy and market systems.

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