



# Developing Country Profiles on Small-Scale Farming and Pastoralism

## Executive summary

As part of the unique BMZ initiative «One World, No Hunger», the program «Building Advisory Capacity for Land Governance in Africa (SLGA)» of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) aims to build the human and institutional capacities needed to implement sustainable land policies that pay attention to the rights of marginalized groups such as small-scale farmers, pastoralists, and women across Africa.

Thus, for the countries selected by the project, country profiles provide an overview of the current situation of small-scale farming and pastoralism. The aim is to capture the implemented policies and their gaps and thereby inform future programmatic work for SLGA and GIZ Global Programme on Land.

The main objective of the Country Pastoralism and Small-Scale Farming Profile is to identify the current status of the governance landscape for pastoralist and small-scale farming in South Sudan, South Africa, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Niger, Tunisia, Egypt and Mauritania. As this will inform SLGA's capacity to provide advisory support on such issues to decision makers and other stakeholders.

The selected countries present different socio-economic contexts. GDP per capita ranges from US\$6,994 in South Africa to US\$594 in Niger. The unemployment rate fluctuates between 4.8% in Ethiopia and 34% in South Africa. The poverty rate is 15% in Tunisia while it reaches 82% in South Sudan. Agriculture represents only 2.4% of GDP and 5% of employment in

South Africa, while it contributes 50% of GDP and 85% of employment in Ethiopia. However, despite the diversity of their contexts, these countries show similarities regarding the situation of small-scale agriculture and pastoralism.

Beyond the problem of definition, small-scale agriculture occupies, to varying degrees, an important place in the economies and societies of different countries. Small-scale agriculture concerns 95% of agricultural producers in Burkina Faso and nearly 80% in Nigeria. This proportion is respectively 74% and 78% for Ethiopia and Tunisia. In Egypt, small-scale agriculture occupies about 35% of agricultural land.

This category of agriculture performs an important economic function.



© GIZ / Thomas Imo, Farmers planting rice in Nigeria

In Ethiopia, it generates 40% of the country's GDP and contributes more than 65% to agricultural GDP in Niger. Similarly, small-scale agriculture performs an important function in terms of food security, employment and rural income, and social cohesion. In Egypt, small farms produce about 47% of field crops, 61.3% of large ruminants and 59.3% of small ruminants. In Ethiopia, they are the source of more than 90% of total agricultural production and 94% of food production. 98% of the food consumed in Nigerian homes is produced by smallholders. In South Sudan, 80% of the population derives its livelihood from small-scale agriculture.

For all countries, women play an important role in small farms and actively participate in the activities of fertilizer application, irrigation, weeding, harvesting, livestock, marketing, and processing of agricultural products. In terms of labor, the contribution of women amounts to 40% in Ethiopia, 45% in Egypt, 51% in Burkina-Faso and 70% in Niger in Tunisia. Similarly, women's share of the agricultural workload is estimated at 62% in South Africa, 75% in Ethiopia and between 60-79% in Nigeria. In terms of production, available statistics indicate that women provide 28% of cash crop production in Burkina Faso and 70% of household food production in Ethiopia.



© Freepik / Woman in the field, Nigeria

land, credit and various support and training services. The proportion of women owners of agricultural land is less than 20% in Nigeria and is less than 18% in Burkina Faso. In Tunisia, only 6.7% of small farms are run by women who hold only 5.6% of the land, while in Mauritania only 4.2% hold a land title. The percentage of female landowners has even decreased in Egypt, from 9.8 percent in 1990 to nearly 4.3 percent in 2010.

Statistical data is unavailable, but studies agree that, in all countries, agriculture is no longer attractive to young people, especially on small farms. Young people are moving more towards service jobs, which are considered less arduous, and are abandoning agriculture. The difficult conditions in which small farmers operate mean that young people no longer want to follow the same orientations as their elders because agriculture does not allow them to have a comfortable future with sufficient income. Declining agricultural productivity and increasing land fragmentation are the main reasons for youth immigration and rural exodus.

Because of its socio-economic importance, small-scale agriculture is the subject of studies and research that have greatly contributed to deepening the knowledge of this type of agriculture. These studies are conducted by academics, national research centers, international organizations (WB, FAO, ILO, IFAD, etc.) or civil society organizations (such as the Confédération Paysanne du Faso). These studies have dealt with a multitude of issues such as the definition and mapping of small farms, land tenure, the contribution of small-scale agriculture to employment and food security as well as its capacity to modernize and manage risks. The reflections also focused on the factors of the vulnerabilities of small-scale agriculture and the role of public policies and producer organizations in its promotion.

For most of the selected countries, agricultural development policies and programs include measures and actions aimed at small farms. In Burkina-Faso, small-scale agriculture is supported through the national rural sector program (PNSR II, 2016-2020).

In Egypt, the new land reclamation projects aim to allocate 30% of the land area to smallholders who benefit in addition to loans and subsidized fertilizers and exemption from tax on agricultural land of less of three feddans which constitutes the most important advantage for these farmers. In Ethiopia, the aim is to achieve food self-sufficiency at the national level by increasing the productivity of smallholders through, for example, the Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Program (SDPRP) and Participatory and Accelerated Sustainable Development to Eradicate Poverty (PASDEP). For Niger, the Sustainable Development, and Inclusive Growth Strategy (SDDCI) Vision 2035, the Economic and Social Development Program (PDES) 2017-2021 and the 3N Initiative aim to develop small-scale agriculture through the implementation of agricultural development projects and programs by the State and its partners. Many policies in Nigeria support small-scale agriculture, such as Back to Land Policy (1983), New Nigeria Agricultural Policy (2001), Agricultural Transformation Agenda [ATA] Policy (2011) and Agricultural Promotion Policy [APP] (2016). In South Africa, the focus is on rural microfinance to support smallholder farmers. Finally, for Tunisia, the 2016-2020 development plan devotes an axis dedicated to the promotion of small-scale agriculture. The planned actions relate mainly to the aspect of financing small farmers with the possibility of creating a line of credit at reduced interest rates. It also involves improving their living conditions by providing them with infrastructure and means of production and working to limit the impacts of climate change.

Regarding access to land and land governance, the situation is characterized, in all countries, by the diversity of land tenures, the limited access of small farms to land, the complexity of procedures and the vagueness of legislative frameworks and, the multiplicity of actors involved in land governance. This situation is a source of land insecurity and conflicts that sometimes take a violent form. Studies in recent years have highlighted the compelling evidence of climate change and the vulnerability of the agricultural sector to

its effects. Small farms are more vulnerable to climate change because they do not have the technical means to prevent or respond to it, nor do they have the level of education required to deal with natural disasters. Nevertheless, these farms have, in some cases, been able to implement practices enabling them to adapt to climate change and mitigate its effects. By way of illustration, in Ethiopia and Niger, these practices relate to the choice of crops and varieties, the adjustment of cropping calendars and moisture conservation practices such as minimum tillage, irrigation and mulching. In Nigeria, smallholders have opted for, among other things, planting early maturing crops, crop rotation, use of improved resistant varieties and increased frequency of weeding.

There are no specific programs dedicated to supporting small farms in the face of climate change. In some countries, these farms are indirectly targeted by actions integrated into national plans. Thus, within the framework of the national plan for adaptation to climate change (PNA 2015-2020), small Burkina farms have benefited from the availability of improved seeds. However, only 36% of households on average have access to these seeds. In Niger, the National Policy on Climate Change (PNCC) has provided for actions in favor of small-scale agriculture such as the use of early varieties, the intensification of inputs by changing the doses of fertilizers, assisted natural regeneration, and changing sowing dates.

To support their agriculture, especially small farms, the selected countries have benefited from several regional and international cooperation programs. The partners are regional or international organizations such as the World Bank, FAO, IFAD, the African Union or the African Development Bank. There are also bilateral cooperation agencies with, among others, the French Development Agency (AFD) or the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

For illustration, the localized irrigation and agricultural resilience project in Burkina Faso, funded by the Austrian Development Cooperation Agency, targets vulnerable

women farmers and aims to develop irrigated agriculture through better access for women to water systems. efficient and resilient irrigation. In Egypt, recent IFAD projects provide agricultural support and post-settlement services to smallholder beneficiaries of land reclamation projects and have a strong gender component. For its part, the World Bank contributes to the financing of the Agricultural Transformation Support Project in Mauritania with the objective of improving food security and the living conditions of vulnerable populations. The World Bank is also financing the Fadama project in Nigeria, which aims to strengthen smallholder organizations to give them the means to better manage shared assets and other resources and to improve their bargaining power. In South Sudan, FAO is involved in several projects aimed at supporting small farmers in rural areas and the hinterland, so that they have access to infrastructure, credit, and functioning markets. For its part, GIZ has implemented a program aimed at promoting employment and incomes in small and medium-sized farms, as well as cooperation within farmers' organizations in Tunisia.

As an extensive livestock system based on the permanent or seasonal mobility of livestock, pastoralism is predominant in all the selected countries. In Burkina-Faso, it is practiced by nearly 72% of rural households, it concerns more than 80% of ruminant breeding and provides 90% of total meat production and 95% of milk production. In Niger, it concerns 75% of livestock and occupies 87% of the rural population. In South Sudan, pastoralism directly or indirectly accounts for about 40% of the country's population and generates nearly half of agricultural exports. In Tunisia, the pastoral herd consists mainly of small ruminants and camels and mobilizes approximately 15% and 37% of the total active population respectively for the South and the Center-West.

There are no reliable statistical data on the contribution of women in livestock activities and even less in pastoralism. However, one of the main conclusions that emerges from the different country profiles is that the participation of women in grazing and livestock activities is

much greater than is generally thought. Women are present in feeding the herd, milking, and marketing and processing of milk. They take care of the livestock kept near the camp, which require special attention, such as pregnant cows, newly born calves, injured and sick animals. Women also contribute to the protection of rangelands and pastoral livelihoods and play a fundamental role in climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies. In Upper Egypt, it is estimated that women's activities represent between 20 and 60% of the income of agropastoral households. In Tunisia, it is estimated that on average, women devote 3.5 hours per day to livestock activities, compared to 3.4 hours per day for men. However, despite their important role in livestock activities, women own less land and livestock and find it harder to access loans and credit that could help them improve their livelihoods.

For youth, statistical data are unavailable. But it can be argued that, as with agriculture in general, young people are increasingly questioning the norms and traditions of pastoral communities and prefer to migrate to big cities or abroad in search of more stable and more profitable employment.

Because of its socio-economic importance, pastoralism is the subject of numerous research works with different concerns depending on the country. Thus, most publications on pastoralism in Egypt have focused on generating archaeological evidence on the existence and development of pastoralism in ancient times, while in Ethiopia research has focused on issues related management of pastoral resources. In Niger, the work focuses on understanding the vulnerability factors of pastoralists and the place of public policies in the promotion of pastoralism. Moreover, available research on pastoralism in South Africa is limited to historical accounts, while Tunisian researchers have focused on the study of pastoral species and different modes of pastoralism. However, it should be noted that the promotion of research results remains insufficient with a shortage of research work in the socio-economic field.

The review of public policies of different countries in terms of agriculture and livestock, highlights

the absence of policies or programs that specifically support pastoralism. Pastoralism is either neglected or indirectly targeted through actions integrated into development policies for livestock or agriculture in general. In Egypt, there is no specific legislation, strategy, and action plan regarding sustainable rangeland management at national or local level. In Ethiopia, development policies seem to favor a system of small farms to the detriment of pastoralism. In Nigeria, except for the protocol which guarantees the free movement of pastoralists or herders in the West African sub-region, no other action in favor of pastoralism has been undertaken. In South Africa, pastoralism does not feature prominently in government policy and strategy documents and is only superficially mentioned in national plans and policy debates. In Tunisia, the option taken for the intensification of agricultural production and livestock systems has made rangeland and pastoralism lose their importance. Niger is an exception with its Sustainable Livestock Development Strategy 2012-2035 (SDDEL) aimed at rehabilitating the pastoral area, increasing its productivity, ensuring complementarity between livestock and agriculture, preserving the purchasing power of breeders and the reproductive potential of the herd.

Rangelands are experiencing pronounced degradation because of overgrazing, deforestation, erosion, soil degradation, desertification, conversion from dryland use to agriculture. There is also a reduction in grazing land due to agricultural expansion and urban encroachment. Similarly, rangelands are often characterized by the multitude of land statuses and the diversity of actors and management organizations, which makes the situation quite complex. Rangelands also suffer from the absence of a specific legislative and institutional framework. Rangeland provisions are often included in other legislation such as the Rural Code in Niger or the Forest Code in Tunisia.

In addition to the problems linked to the inappropriate use of collective rangelands, there is climate change, the impacts of which make pastoral ecosystems more vulnerable

and contribute to their degradation. Pasture productivity and biodiversity will be reduced by the increasing frequency and severity of droughts. Furthermore, increased aridity and reduced availability of water and grazing resources will have a negative impact on animal productivity and welfare, food security and pastoralist incomes.

Faced with climate change, the practices implemented by Egyptian pastoralists concern destocking to reduce the number of heads of cattle, increasing the extent and distance of movements in search of water and pasture and the diversification of livelihood options. In Nigeria, pastoralists are responding to these changes with increased nomadism, improved fodder production and conservation, the drilling of more wells, and the diversification of livelihoods. In South Africa, pastoralists have responded by changing routes and increasing grazing distances, destocking, water collection and storage, and increased reliance on social assistance.



© Freepik/Cow in South Africa

For all the selected countries, pastoralism has benefited from the technical and financial support of regional and international partners, whether international organizations or bilateral cooperation agencies. For example, the development of the legal and policy framework for sustainable rangeland management in Egypt is funded and facilitated by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) project titled “Healthy Ecosystems for Rangeland Development (HERD)». Burkina-Faso, Mauritania, Niger and South Sudan are members of the Regional Support Project for Pastoralism in the Sahel (PRAPS) financed by the World Bank and which aims to improve access to markets and production means and services

essential for pastoralists and agropastoralists. In Tunisia, the Agropastoral and Associated Sectors Development Project in the Governorate of Medenine (PRODEFIL) financed by IFAD and the European Union, over the period 2014- 2023, has the overall objective of improving the living conditions of the vulnerable rural population and creating new employment opportunities by strengthening the resilience of agropastoral production systems.

In conclusion, small-scale agriculture and pastoralism occupy an important place in the selected countries. They remain the basis of food security and play a crucial role for growth and social cohesion. However, despite the programs implemented, public policies do not take their specificities into account and do not meet their expectations. Small-scale agriculture and pastoralism face the degradation of land resources whose governance is characterized by the absence or imprecision of the legislative framework, the complexity of procedures and the multiplicity of actors. Moreover, in addition to the risks linked to conflicts around resources already in degradation, there are those linked to climate change. Similarly, despite their significant contribution, women remain marginalized in terms of access to land, credit and various support and training services, while few young people aspire to stay in rural areas and many migrate, either to urban areas or abroad. The recommendations arising from the country profiles agree on the need to give more importance to pastoralists and smallholders and design

specific measures and programs to improve their access to resources and various support services. It is a question of developing, in partnership with the actors concerned, new approaches to consider the specificities of smallholders and pastoralists while ensuring their consistency with the agricultural development process.

It is also a question of empowering women by improving their access to land and various resources, by allowing them training in management and adaptation to climatic hazards and by maximizing their ability to share their expertise and express their concerns in policy dialogues. The recommendations also stress the need to reform the legislative and institutional frameworks to improve the governance of land resources, the implementation of specific programs to mitigate the risks of climate change and the strengthening of research while ensuring better valuation of its achievements.



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