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Ethiopia's Livestock Production and its Contribution to Food Security

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Abstract

Livestock production plays a fundamental role in ensuring food security and sustaining livelihoods in Ethiopia. This study employs thematic analysis to systematically examine peer-reviewed literature, government reports, and development agency publications to assess how livestock contributes to food security in the Ethiopian context. The analysis identifies four key themes: (1) nutritional contributions through animal-source foods, (2) income generation and economic resilience, (3) integration with crop production systems, and (4) climate change adaptation strategies. Findings reveal that livestock provides 16-20% of total calorie intake and 25-30% of dietary protein for rural households, while serving as a critical asset for risk mitigation during food shortages. However, systemic challenges including feed deficits (estimated at 40-60% of requirements), disease prevalence, and market access limitations constrain full productivity potential. The study concludes with policy recommendations emphasizing the need for integrated livestock-crop systems, improved animal health services, and climate-smart production practices to enhance the sector's contribution to national food security goals.

Keywords: *Livestock production, food security, Ethiopia, thematic analysis, climate adaptation*

