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Situational Analysis of Kenyan Slaughterhouses in Relation to Resource Utilization. The Case of Nairobi County

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Abstract

The livestock sector plays a vital role in advancing Kenya's Vision 2030, contributing approximately 40% of agriculture's share to the national GDP. Among the key contributors within this sector are slaughterhouses, which generate economically valuable by-products such as hides and skins. This study sought to assess the current utilization of slaughterhouse resources and waste management practices within Nairobi County, with a focus on identifying challenges and opportunities for improved efficiency and value addition.

A descriptive research design was employed, utilizing mixed methods for data collection. Quantitative data from structured questionnaires were triangulated with qualitative insights from focus group discussions, key informant interviews, direct observation, and literature review. Reviewed documents included the Kenya Livestock Sector Report (USAID, 2023), Mapping of Beef Systems in Nairobi Report (Agrisys, 2023), and the Kenya Livestock Market Assessment Report (USAID, 2023).

Findings revealed that while red and green offal are the most commonly sold by-products—averaging KES 350 and KES 170 respectively—market structures remain poorly organized. Only 18% of slaughterhouses sell by-products to established enterprises, with the majority (82%) relying on informal individual buyers. Furthermore, value addition is minimal, with only 46% of facilities utilizing by-products for biogas or animal feed production. The study also highlighted the reliance on outdated equipment and an expressed need among stakeholders for support in acquiring modern technologies.

Overall, the research underscores the untapped potential of slaughterhouse by-products in contributing to Kenya's economic growth. Strategic investment in technology, formal market linkages, and enhanced waste management practices could significantly boost productivity and sustainability within the livestock sector.

