

# Role of Livestock Farming Development In Gatsibo Region Socioeconomy – A Case Study

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Received 12 May 2022, Revised 1 June 2022, Accepted 2 Sep 2022,  
Published 1 Nov 2023

## Abstract

This case study paper focuses on the role of livestock farming in socioeconomic development, taking Poverty Elimination through Livestock Farming in the Gatsibo region (Rwanda), as an example. The paper focuses on how people would be inspired to make rearing domestic animals and how Gatsibo could be developed by using livestock farming.

The author discuss the process of getting the project ideas and how to use the minimal resources and manage to mitigate challenges that come with that. The implication of this paper is that show the strategic outlook for keeping high livestock in every region in Rwanda.

**Keywords:** Socioeconomic Development, Livestock Farming, Rwanda, Inspiration Economy Projects.

## 1.0 Introduction

Gatsibo is a region located in the north of Rwanda. A region has plain as geographical features. The research made on this eastern part of Rwanda was focused on how to help the Gatsibo speed up its development through rearing small domestic animals. The author studies the implication of such projects on the life of people, since this region is mainly concerned with the high domestication in Rwanda.



Figure (1) Showing Examples of the livestock of Gatsibo Region

This region is dominated by savannah as the main plant, and even if it is plain, it has a moderate climate. However, climate change is creating problems in the Gatsibo region, where people prefer to do livestock farming. This case study brings in relevant aspects that can attract people of the world to apply in livestock, especially in that region of Rwanda when they have enough capital. The purpose of the research was to solve poverty in the world. In the research, we used oral conversations and written forms with farmers from the Gatsibo region.

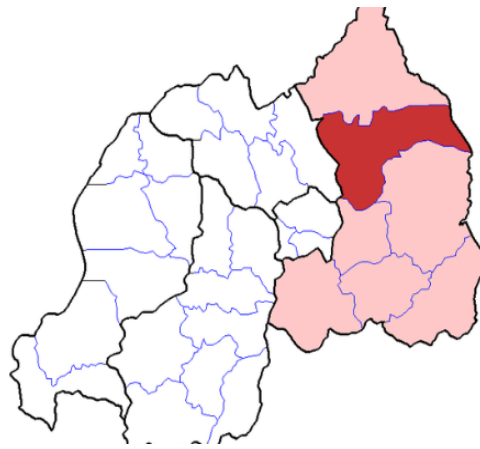


Figure (2) Gatsibo region shown in red colour as part of the Rwanda Map.

## 2.0 Literature Review.

Livestock farming is rearing domestic animals for either substance or for selling (modernization). The examples taken in this paper are on only the sheep, cattle and goats. This action is done with the purpose of adapting the development of social economics of people and a given area/ region; for example, through livestock farming, people build good relationships among themselves.

That activity could have been done on the large ground and on the sheds in the home where people care for domestic animals rather than grazing on the big ground. Livestock can be traditionally or modernized. Under tradition, the farmers used to mix more animals, which are of different kinds. Besides, the farmers make irregular travelling to seek plants to feed their animals (pastoralism). Also, in traditional livestock farming, there is low capital invested, and limited use of skilled labour with low production earned.



Figure (3) Illustrates Traditional Livestock Farming, where people mix different animals in the big ground and then make regular moves for the purpose of searching for plants for their animals.

The livestock can be part of a modernized farm, where there is the use of high capital in accomplishing, i.e. if the farm uses skilled labourers, besides educated experts like veterinaries who would be able to treat the animals' disease. These practices, if embedded along with the good practices in village homes where people built sheds and used both plants and food from industries, they would end up getting high production very quickly. This would help the village to improve its yield and sales production.



Figure (4) Illustrates modern livestock farming, where the cow and other small animals are kept at home by using shads.



### Importance of the Livestock to the Life of Villagers in Rwanda

Livestock farming generates good cash for the village, and as animal production increases, the village grows and is then sold to generate money. For example, the production of milk is sold, hence generating cash, and this cash is used to buy accommodations, clothes and other basic needs. Also, it generates food; having livestock leads to the production of meat and milk, which fight different diseases like kwashiorkor. These products can be sold, and cash from the sale would be used to buy another kind of food required.

Then livestock generates manure used in cultivating crops, hence increasing the production of different kinds of crops such as wheat, beans and others. In addition, livestock generates biogas in rural where other forms of energy do not reach; for example, in areas which have no electricity and solar, they managed to use biogas in order to get energy since biogas is cheaper than buying generators in different rural areas. Therefore, with livestock, people get modern accommodation (houses), children get school fees, and the government earns income through charging taxes, which facilitate it in the budget of the following year (budget is a statement that planes activities expected to be done and sources of funds to fund them). Finally, livestock farming generates manure, which adapts to the production of agriculture.



Figure (5) Illustrate Crops cultivated using manure in a different part of Rwanda.



Figure (6) Illustrates how Farmers Use the cash coming from livestock farming to build their Accommodation.

### **3.0 Methodology**

The research was taken into different steps; the first step started by asking about where ideas of keeping domestic animals come from, and step two was to ask about challenges that existed at the start of the project. Another step was asking how people can start livestock with low capital; finally, step four was to ask about the farmer's role in the development of livestock farming in the Gatsibo region as the main purpose concerned. These steps were used and gave clarified information.

### **4.0 Case study**

Gatsibo is a region of the eastern part of Rwanda. With the farmers who have asked questions in this case, a study showed that “the idea of starting livestock comes from the poverty they had had in Gatsibo region. Therefore, under that circumstance, people decided to set the way they would mitigate their poverty. As they told us, Gatsibo had poverty, which made people to make livestock farming in order to reduce poverty in their region. People here showed that “by the starting their projects of keeping, they were meeting with problems such as lack of capital as it is in all part of the world. This was becoming a problem because it is not easy to start a business without funds, even if they try their best.

#### **4.1 The strategies that the community of Gatsibo used to mitigate obstacles in starting farming projects.**

In order to get capital, they joined their efforts through cooperation and rent from banks, and then they got capital to start livestock farming, especially goat farming. The people of Gatsibo made small shares, and then after the fund to fundraise, the project raised, hence starting. While other farmers used to rent credits from banks and they operate their project.

In the region, farmers managed to rear goats at high-level and low cattle. At the start, people of the region focused on the goat, and then followed by cattle. People prefer to do goat farming for the following reasons: Gatsibo region has enough grasses to feed goats. This region has a good climate for keeping. Rearing goats requires low capital compared to keeping like cattle keeping, as told by these farmers. They said that “every project starts with low capital as we have seen in inspiration project proposed in inspiration internship, for example, in a project of rabbit rearing. Farmers from Gatsibo asked how people can start livestock with low capital, which they answered that” people would buy only five goats charging only a value of US\$200 and then in not more than seven months these goats will be able to produce another five goats hence production come very quickly. The profits come from these goats used in cattle farming.

#### **4.2 The Importance of Livestock Farming in Socioeconomic Development**

The farmers had asked about the role of the development of livestock farming in the Gatsibo region, as it was the main purpose of the case study. About this question, they responded that “livestock farming, especially goat farming, has many roles in development in Gatsibo; such role produces food for people and milk which helps in balancing food nutrients. it generates income, which is used in different actions like paying school fees; people get employment for caring for these small animals in the region; it generates manure that is

used in the cultivation of crops, which increases the production of crops. According to our case study, we have seen that livestock plays a big role in development in the Gatsibo region since it contributes income and savings to families of that region. It helps in the production of crops because manure comes from keeping and is used in cultivation as it had been told by them, this livestock made the government set their transportation means, it generates employment for the community with the purpose of removing poverty. The role of livestock is classified in different ways, which are the following.

The high amount of income for households of the Gatsibo region facilitates them to buy other food needed, and pay school fees for their children and buy their clothes. Another way, livestock farming has a function in generating livestock production from rural to urban of Rwanda; Rwandans come from different regions to Gatsibo to buy goats, sheep and cows for the purpose of getting meat.

The livestock production in Gatsibo is close to crop production because live stocking generates manure that is used in cultivating crops. The manure increases the fertility of soil structure, so using manure leads to an increase in crop production. In addition, livestock farming in Gatsibo leads to an increase of transport means where roads have been built in the region. This setting of roads is set not only for transporting products from livestock but also for other activities such as forestry, hence the development of the Gatsibo region.

In that region, people had to rear different domestic animals such as goats, sheep, and cattle. However, because of the low financial capital, most of the families in the Gatsibo region managed to keep goats and sheep rather than keep other natural resources. In this region, the researcher has asked 200 households where 182 households are goat and sheeps farmers, which represent 91% of the families of the Gatsibo region. Goat and sheep farming requires low capital, and people would use only \$200 as capital to start farming rather than rearing cattle, which requires high costs. In addition, Gatsibo has extended grounds for the application of the goat project together with available veterinaries who can cure these livestock animals at any time there are diseases affecting them.

It is important to know that livestock is an activity that requires high effort, especially in caring for these domestic animals. For the Gatsibo community, which has low capital for paying labourers who could care for their farming, they decided to use gender equality where women and men cooperate and share activities of caring. Those projects mean that both women and men have the same responsibility in livestock farming. This norm does not only increase production, but also leads to an increase in friendship among the community in general.

#### **4.3 Challenges of livestock farmers**

In the Gatsibo region, there are some challenges that exist there which challenge livestock farming, for example: 1, even if the region is managing to do some projects. They have low capital, which needs to be added on to increase production. For instance, most of the people there spend not above \$300 on their livestock; this limits them to use high modernization in their farming. 2 livestock done in the Gatsibo region are challenged by lack of a market; in this region, it is difficult to get market and where market located is far from Gatsibo, this made some production to lose market. 3 their lack enough transport to transport production

in other regions of Rwanda; there is only one road that passes in Gatsibo; this challenge leads to a lack of food for these domestic animals. Hence, low production is produced in the Gatsibo region. In the dry season, water became challenging because Gatsibo is located in the eastern part of Rwanda with little water. These challenges limit people to cattle farming since cattle requires high capital to accomplish, it requires much water for drinking while the dry season becomes so challenging. So, they prefer to do goat farming since it can resist these challenges.

#### **4.4 The Way to Address the Challenges of Livestock Farmers.**

Although there are these challenges in the Gatsibo region, this region will be developed because of the live stocking that exists there. For example, the government of Rwanda is planning to spread water in all parts of eastern provinces, including Gatsibo, because of livestock that exists there since it shows the prediction of being developed in Rwanda. Not only water supply but also transpiration means are planned to be set in that region through government projection of transportation means in Rwanda. The government of Rwanda is planning to build different roads that will join Gatsibo with other regions as a way of spreading livestock production out of the Gatsibo region. So, according to the information given above, Gatsibo is a good region to invest in the future because the roads will be available there to transport food for animals, labourers, and the output produced. With the water supply availability the Gatsibo region have an extended ground for livestock farming.

### **5.0 Discussion and Conclusion**

The project of livestock farming has led to socioeconomic development in many ways, such as wealth and an increase in hospitality among people. In this community of Gatsibo used low capital through cooperation and getting loans from banks to make livestock farming. Therefore, as researchers, we have gained experience from the case study, and these experiences will help us to generate our own projects. The livestock farming in the Gatsibo region showed that “by using shares from different people or families, any region would be developed as that region has been developing. So according to the case study, we should apply and do other research on the other regions such as Ngoma, kirehe and Rwamagana regions for the purpose of getting another projects that can be applicable in Rwanda .

#### **5.1 Stages for Accomplishing the Project**

By using information received from the Gatsibo project of live farming, we have gotten the following requirements for any project proposed. For examples:

1. we have seen different steps of getting projects where we have seen that; first people look at the problem that exists in the region, for instance, some regions would have the problem of getting a balanced diet in their feeding. Under this problem, a projector would get the project that can be applicable and investable: here, people would choose a project of keeping small domestic animals; this is what we can call identification of project idea/idea generation.
2. when people have already gotten the idea of project, it is better to look for the challenges that can affect their projects in their regions; for example, challenges are the following such as transport problems like road problems, which could become obstacles for the application of livestock farming as an activity /project. Another challenge is capital; every time, people



must look at capital concerned with a project idea. Another challenge that must be faced is communication means; many parties of the world do not have a network, and our world business requires the use of digital tools and telephones in communication. So, before starting any project, make sure that your region has the full network. Political will: political will become challenged according to their myths and stereotypes; it is better to plan a project which is acceptable by the governance concern on.

3. There is concept development; in this stage, a projector makes the scale of action that is expected in her/his project; in this stage, people also plan how much capital is required to accomplish the project. Show also categories of labour required in this stage and expected wages for them; for example, in the livestock, both skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled labourers are needed and paid according to their functions in the project. This is the stage where people look for how products will be sold at the market. This made a projector to search the market before implementing a project.

4. People have to look for what we can call resourcing: we have been inspired that before applying in any project you must know where to get funds to fund it. For example, people would cell some parts of other businesses they have and get credits from banks. This helps people to plan a project that considers the funds they have in order to fight any challenges that arise in the operation of the project.

### Remarks

The information given in this case study focuses on how livestock farming could lead to development in a given area of the world. It focuses on one region of Rwanda to clarify different options in relation to the inspiration economy.

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