



FARM & LIVESTOCK

NEWS AFRICA

Africa's Voice On Farming And Livestock. July-September Edition

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Dear readers

Agriculture continues to shape Africa's future. From the fields that feed our communities to the innovations transforming agribusiness, the sector remains a powerful driver of economic growth, food security, and sustainable development across the continent.

At **Farm & Livestock News Africa**, our mission is to provide trusted insights, practical knowledge, and meaningful analysis that support farmers, agribusiness professionals, policymakers, researchers, investors, and everyone committed to advancing African agriculture. We believe that informed decision-making begins with access to reliable information and the sharing of ideas that inspire progress.

In this edition, we bring you carefully selected features on crop production, livestock management, agricultural technology, market trends, climate-smart farming, agribusiness opportunities, and the people whose dedication continues to transform agriculture across Africa. Our editorial team is committed to delivering balanced, relevant, and forward-looking content that reflects both the challenges and the remarkable opportunities within the industry.

As agriculture evolves, collaboration, innovation, and knowledge sharing have never been more important. We remain

dedicated to highlighting practical solutions, celebrating excellence, and providing a platform for voices that are shaping the future of farming and agribusiness across the continent.

We extend our sincere appreciation to our readers, contributors, industry partners, and advertisers for their continued confidence

and support. Your engagement encourages us to maintain the highest standards of journalism and editorial excellence.

Thank you for choosing Farm & Livestock News Africa. We trust that this edition will provide valuable insights, spark new ideas, and contribute to informed conversations that strengthen agriculture throughout Africa.

STEVEN MWANZA

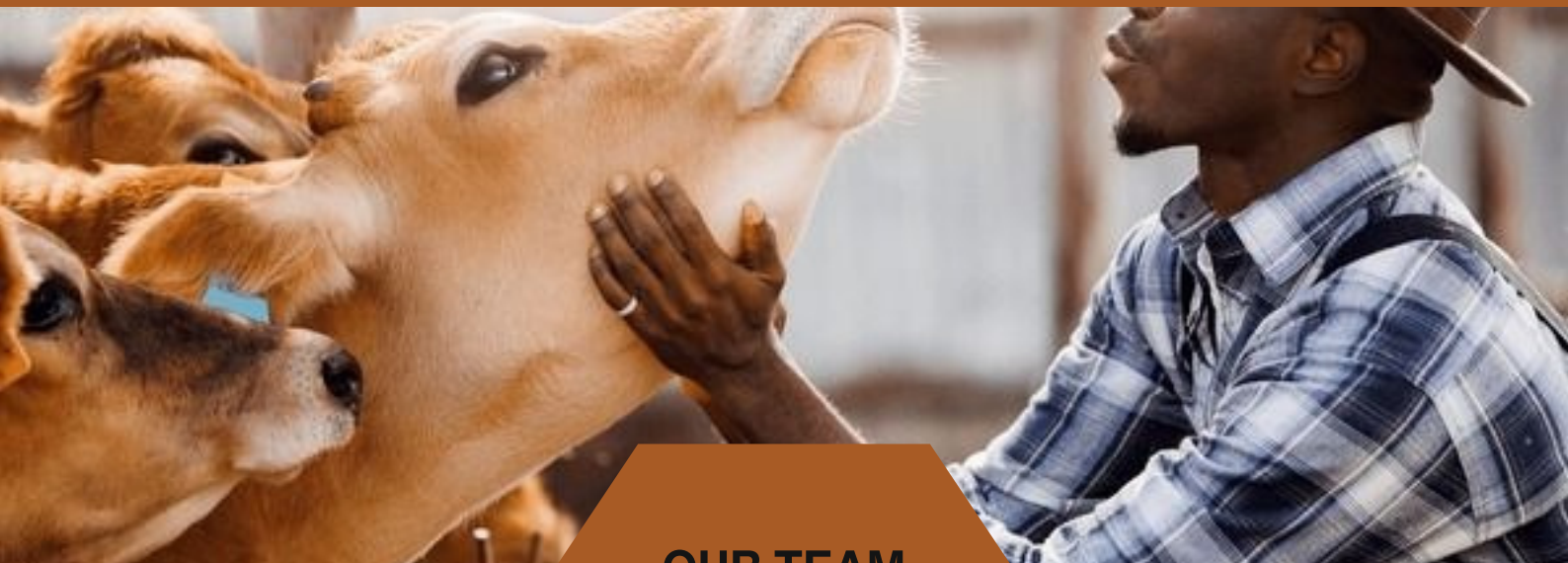
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<https://www.farmandlivestocknews.africa/> is a pan-African agricultural media platform focused on delivering credible, practical, and industry-specific information across livestock and crop production value chains. It operates across print, digital, and social channels, serving as a bridge between farmers, agribusinesses, suppliers, policymakers, and investors.



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KENYA'S LIVESTOCK AND FARMING EQUIPMENT DEVELOPMENT

Kenya's agricultural sector is undergoing a significant transformation as modern technology continues to reshape farming and livestock production. With agriculture remaining a key contributor to the country's economy, the government and private sector are investing heavily in innovative solutions aimed at increasing productivity, improving food security, and enhancing farmers' incomes. One of the most notable developments is the government's investment of Ksh 5 billion to support pastoralists and modernize the livestock sector. The initiative seeks to improve livestock management, strengthen disease control measures, and enhance market access for farmers. This investment is expected to benefit thousands of livestock keepers across the country.

A major component of this modernization drive is the introduction of the Animal Traceability System (ANITRAC). The digital platform uses tamper-proof microchips and ear tags to identify and track animals in real time. Through geolocation technology, farmers and authorities can monitor livestock movements, helping to reduce theft and improve disease surveillance.

The ANITRAC system also positions Kenya to compete more effectively in international markets. Global buyers increasingly require proof of animal origin and health records before importing livestock products. By providing accurate traceability data, Kenya can meet export standards and unlock new market opportunities for livestock producers.

In the poultry industry, farmers are increasingly adopting automated and climate-controlled housing systems. Modern poultry houses are equipped with automated feeding equipment, nipple drinking lines, and environmental control systems that regulate temperature and ventilation. These innovations help maintain optimal conditions for poultry production throughout the year.

The adoption of smart poultry technologies has significantly improved efficiency and reduced production costs. Automated feeding systems minimize feed wastage while ensuring birds receive adequate nutrition. Climate sensors continuously monitor environmental conditions and automatically adjust ventilation systems, promoting healthier flocks and increased egg production.

Renewable energy is also playing a critical role in agricultural modernization. Solar-powered water pumps are becoming increasingly popular among livestock and crop farmers, especially in remote areas without reliable electricity. These systems provide a cost-effective and environmentally friendly alternative to fuel-powered pumps, reducing operational expenses and improving access to water.



BEYOND THE HARVEST: WHY ZAMBIA'S 2026 GRAIN MARKET WILL BE DEFINED BY STRATEGY, NOT JUST PRODUCTION

Introduction: The Real Harvest Begins After the Fields

Across Zambia, thousands of hectares of maize have been harvested, soya beans have been dried and bagged, and farmers are now turning their attention to a question that will determine the true value of their hard work: Where should they sell, and at what price?

For many producers, the end of the growing season marks the beginning of an equally important challenge—the marketing season. While favourable weather and improved farming practices have delivered encouraging yields in many parts of the country, profitability now depends on market timing, grain quality, storage capacity, and access to reliable buyers.

The coming months are expected to shape not only household incomes but also Zambia's food security, agro-processing industry, and regional trade position. Farmers, grain traders, millers, exporters and policymakers are all watching the market closely as one of the country's most important agricultural seasons unfolds.

Maize Remains the Pulse of Zambia's Agricultural Economy

No crop influences Zambia's agricultural landscape more than maize. It is the nation's staple food, the primary source of income for many rural households, and the foundation of the country's strategic grain reserves.

Each marketing season, the actions of the Food Reserve Agency (FRA) and private grain buyers become key drivers of market activity. Farmers rely on these buyers not only to generate income but also to finance land preparation, seed purchases and fertilizer for the next production cycle.

However, today's grain market is far more competitive than it was a decade ago. Private traders, millers and commercial aggregators are expanding their presence across producing districts, offering farmers additional marketing options and creating healthier competition for quality grain.

Industry analysts say this growing competition is gradually transforming Zambia's grain economy, encouraging better pricing mechanisms while improving efficiency throughout the supply chain.

Soya Beans: Zambia's Quiet Agricultural Success Story

While maize dominates headlines, soya beans are steadily becoming one of Zambia's most profitable commercial crops.

Demand continues to grow from cooking oil manufacturers, livestock feed processors and poultry producers, both locally and across Southern Africa. As regional livestock production expands, so does the need for protein-rich soya meal, placing Zambian farmers in an increasingly favourable position.

Unlike maize, soya bean prices are largely determined by market demand and processor requirements rather than government procurement. This creates opportunities for producers who consistently deliver high-quality grain that meets moisture, cleanliness and grading standards. Agricultural economists believe the expansion of local processing industries could further strengthen demand for soya beans, allowing Zambia to capture greater value before products reach export markets.



Quality Is Becoming the New Currency

The modern grain market rewards more than high yields.

Buyers are increasingly paying attention to moisture content, cleanliness, proper grading and post-harvest handling. Grain that has been carefully dried, cleaned and stored commands greater confidence and often attracts stronger offers than poorly handled produce.

This shift reflects changing market expectations, particularly as Zambia seeks to strengthen regional trade and access premium export markets.

Experts note that investments in drying facilities, improved storage systems and better handling practices are no longer optional—they are becoming essential business decisions for commercial agriculture.

Processing Adds Value Beyond the Farm Gate

One of Zambia's greatest opportunities lies not only in producing grain but also in processing it.

Maize can be transformed into mealie meal, stock feed, starch and industrial products. Soya beans provide edible oil, livestock feed ingredients and numerous food products. Every stage of processing creates employment, stimulates investment and keeps more economic value within the country.

As agro-processing capacity continues to expand, demand for reliable supplies of quality grain is expected to increase. This creates opportunities for farmers who view agriculture not simply as production but as participation in a growing value chain.

Greater investment in processing facilities could also reduce post-harvest losses while strengthening Zambia's competitiveness in regional markets.

Regional Markets Present Growing Opportunities

Zambia's central location gives it a strategic advantage in regional agricultural trade.

Neighbouring countries periodically experience production shortfalls due to droughts or adverse weather, creating opportunities for Zambian grain exporters whenever surplus production is available.

Cross-border trade in maize, soya beans and other commodities continues to contribute to rural incomes while supporting food security across Southern Africa. Improved transport infrastructure, warehouse development and private sector investment are further strengthening Zambia's position as an important regional grain supplier.

Maintaining consistent quality and reliable supply will remain critical if the country is to expand its presence in these competitive markets.

Challenges That Cannot Be Ignored

Despite the positive outlook, several challenges continue to influence agricultural marketing.

High transport costs remain a significant burden for many farmers, particularly those located far from major buying centres. Inadequate storage facilities force some producers to sell immediately after harvest, often when market prices are under pressure. Access to timely market information also varies considerably, limiting farmers' ability to compare offers or identify emerging opportunities.

Climate variability, fluctuating production costs and changing regional demand continue to remind stakeholders that successful farming depends as much on sound business decisions as it does on good rainfall.

Addressing these challenges will require stronger collaboration between government, financial institutions, farmer organisations and the private sector to build a more resilient and transparent marketing system.

Insight: The Future Belongs to Market-Oriented Farmers

The most successful farmers of the future will not necessarily be those who harvest the largest volumes—they will be those who understand the market.

Commercial agriculture is increasingly driven by planning, quality assurance, market intelligence and value addition. Producers who diversify into crops such as soya beans, invest in post-harvest management and build relationships with multiple buyers are better positioned to withstand market fluctuations and maximise returns.

Agriculture is evolving from a production-focused activity into a sophisticated business where information, timing and quality are just as important as the harvest itself.

Conclusion

Zambia's 2026 grain marketing season highlights the growing importance of strategy alongside production. While maize remains the backbone of the country's food system, rising demand for soya beans and other commercial crops is creating new opportunities for farmers. Success will increasingly depend on producing quality grain, understanding market trends, and embracing value addition. As the agricultural sector continues to evolve, those who combine productivity with smart marketing will be best positioned to drive Zambia's food security and agricultural growth.

Uganda Accelerates Crop Farming Transformation Through Technology, Innovation and Commercial Agriculture



Uganda has continued making significant progress in crop farming development through investments in technology, farmer training, crop diversification, and agricultural extension services. The country is increasingly focusing on transforming agriculture from subsistence farming into a more commercial and market-oriented sector.

One of the country's major developments has been the growing adoption of artificial intelligence in agriculture. The Ministry of ICT and National Guidance signed a strategic partnership with the United Nations Health Industry Foundation and the Prince Kimbugwe Foundation to accelerate the adoption of artificial intelligence and smart agriculture technologies. The agreement includes the establishment of AI laboratories and specialized training programs aimed at improving digital crop management and agricultural innovation.

Uganda has also embraced virtual agricultural investment platforms as part of its modernization efforts. Agricultural experts have introduced technology-driven digital platforms that aggregate smallholder farmers and connect them directly to input suppliers, financiers, and buyers. These platforms are helping speed up crop-cycle financing and improving access to

agricultural services. The country has further made significant strides in strengthening commercial agricultural value chains, particularly in rice production. With support from South Korean agricultural innovations, farmers at the Doho Irrigation Scheme in Eastern Uganda have adopted improved farming methods that have significantly increased rice yields.

At the same time, policymakers are pushing for increased domestic funding toward upland rice research to reduce Uganda's annual rice import bill, which is estimated at between 230 million and 400 million US dollars.

Uganda has also expanded its cocoa sector, contributing to economic growth and export diversification. Agro-entrepreneurs, including companies such as Koko Agri Farms, are promoting a shift from subsistence cocoa production to high-value cocoa aggregation and export.

With nearly 80 percent of Uganda's land considered arable, experts believe the country has the potential to replicate the international success of its coffee industry by scaling up high-quality cocoa production for global markets.

Regional agricultural productivity support programs have also played an important role in transforming the sector. The Local Economic Growth Support (LEGS) project, backed by the Islamic Development Bank, has introduced large-scale agricultural productivity interventions across the Teso, Northern, and West Nile sub-regions.

The project is supporting farmers through the provision of farming equipment, productivity enhancement programs, and income-generating initiatives aimed at improving rural livelihoods.

Uganda has additionally strengthened its agricultural policy direction through continental frameworks and long-term development planning. Stakeholders are advancing plans under the CAADP Kampala Declaration for the 2026–2035 period. The framework focuses heavily on agro-industrialization, climate resilience, regional trade integration, and value addition as key drivers of agricultural transformation.

Another major policy direction has been the government's push to reduce dependence on subsistence farming. President Yoweri Museveni has repeatedly called on local leaders and public administrators to strengthen the implementation of commercial agriculture programs at community level.

The government has also increased funding allocations directly to parish structures under household wealth creation initiatives aimed at encouraging rural communities to transition from subsistence farming to commercial, value-added agricultural production. Uganda's continued investments in crop farming development are steadily transforming the agricultural sector into a more modern, productive, and commercially driven industry.



Through the adoption of artificial intelligence, digital financing platforms, irrigation innovation, export expansion, and regional productivity programs, Uganda is positioning itself as one of Africa's emerging agricultural powerhouses. With strong government support, international partnerships, and policies promoting agro-industrialization and value addition, the country's crop farming sector is expected to create more employment opportunities, strengthen food security, and contribute significantly to economic growth.

As Uganda continues shifting from subsistence farming to commercial agriculture, the future of its agricultural sector appears increasingly promising and competitive at both regional and global levels.

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After nine successful editions that have brought together farmers, agribusiness leaders, investors, policymakers, and innovators from across the globe, the Africa Agri Expo is back for its milestone 10th Jubilee edition — and this year, it promises to be the most significant gathering yet. Held in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, on 2nd and 3rd September 2026, the event co-locates with the 3rd Future Food Livestock & Poultry Expo to form an unparalleled convergence of agri-trade, innovation, and investment spanning the entire food and agriculture value chain.

This is not a regional event with regional ambitions. It is a global platform anchored in the world's most exciting agricultural frontier — and it is coming at exactly the right moment. Why Africa — And Why Now? The African continent holds over 60% of the world's uncultivated arable land, is home to a rapidly expanding middle class, and represents one of the fastest-growing food markets on the planet. With a population projected to double by 2050, African agriculture is not just a development story — it is a global business opportunity of historic proportions. Companies that establish a foothold here today are positioning themselves for decades of growth that few other markets can offer. Tanzania, in

particular, is emerging as one of East Africa's most dynamic agricultural economies. With fertile land, a strategic coastal location, and a government actively investing in agri-infrastructure, Dar-es-Salaam serves as a natural gateway for businesses looking to enter or expand across East and Central Africa. The city's port connectivity, improving logistics networks, and growing commercial ecosystem make it ideal for forging distribution partnerships, scouting suppliers, and launching new products into one of the continent's most promising markets. "Africa is not the market of the future — it is the market of today. The businesses that build relationships here now will lead the next decade of global agri-food trade." — Tahir Abdul Bari, CEO, TAB Group

What to Expect at the Expo The Africa Agri Expo is built to deliver genuine business value — not just a trade floor, but a living ecosystem of deals, dialogue, and discovery. Over two full days, exhibitors and attendees have access to live product demonstrations and launches spanning crop production, smart farming, irrigation systems, post-harvest technology, agri-inputs, machinery, and digital agriculture tools. The expo floor is where manufacturers meet buyers, where technology meets adoption, and where new market relationships are born.

Through the co-located Future Food Livestock & Poultry Expo, a dedicated zone covers animal nutrition, veterinary solutions, breeding technologies, cold chain infrastructure, and processing equipment — making this one of the very few events in Africa where agri and food-livestock businesses can engage a shared, crossover audience under one roof. High-level conference sessions and panel discussions bring together industry experts, government representatives, and thought leaders to address the defining issues of African agriculture today: climate-smart farming, food security, agri-finance, and the role of youth in building the continent's agricultural future.

Grow Your Business — Exhibit, Sponsor, or Speak The Africa Agri Expo 2026 offers every business a meaningful way to participate. Exhibitors gain direct access to thousands of qualified buyers, importers, and distributors, with dedicated demonstration space to showcase products and generate on-floor leads. For companies looking to enter new African markets or deepen existing relationships, there is no more efficient platform on the continent. Sponsorship packages place your brand at the very centre of the event — from the opening ceremony to conference sessions and networking breaks. Premium visibility across all event touchpoints, logo placement on signage, lanyards, and digital screens, and complimentary delegate passes make sponsorship a powerful brand investment that reaches a senior, decision-making audience precisely when they are evaluating solutions and suppliers. For organisations looking to lead the conversation, speaking opportunities during the conference programme offer the chance to present research, share insights, or facilitate panel discussions —

establishing thought leadership, driving media coverage, and building stakeholder relationships that extend well beyond the event itself. Whichever path you choose, your association with Africa's premier agricultural expo is a strategic entry point into one of the world's fastest-growing agri-food economies.

Marking a Decade of Impact Reaching the 10th edition is no small milestone. Over the past decade, the Africa Agri Expo has helped thousands of businesses forge meaningful connections, facilitated significant trade deals, and played a meaningful role in raising the profile of African agriculture on the world stage. The 2026 edition is both a celebration of that journey and a confident step into the next chapter — with a broader audience, a larger exhibition floor, and the added reach of the Future Food Livestock & Poultry Expo making this the most compelling edition yet. Register. Exhibit. Sponsor. Partner. Be part of Africa's most important agricultural business event of 2026. Whether you are an exhibitor ready to showcase your solutions, a sponsor looking to lead the conversation, a speaker with insights to share, or a delegate looking to source, network, and learn — your seat at the table is waiting. Secure your participation today and take your place at the heart of African agribusiness. Email: agri.expo@tab-global.com



CHAD'S QUIET MECHANIZATION DRIVE: TRACTORS, SOLAR PUMPS AND THE BATTLE FOR SPARE PARTS



Introduction: A New Era for Chadian Agriculture

For decades, agriculture in Chad has been defined by manual labour, low productivity and limited access to modern farming equipment. Despite agriculture employing the majority of the country's workforce, mechanization levels remain among the lowest in Africa, with tractor ownership estimated at just 0.5 percent.

Yet beneath the radar, a gradual transformation is taking shape

Government Accelerates Agricultural Mechanization

The Chadian government is pursuing an ambitious mechanization agenda aimed at improving agricultural productivity, enhancing food security and reducing dependence on subsistence farming. Through the Programme d'Appui à la Mécanisation Agricole (PAMA), authorities recently deployed 120 additional tractors across eleven provinces, increasing the national fleet to nearly 500 units.

The initiative comes at a critical time for a sector that cultivates approximately 4.5 million hectares of land, while less than five

percent is supported by irrigation infrastructure. More than 88 percent of rural households continue to rely on traditional farming methods, leaving productivity vulnerable to climate variability and labour constraints.

Farmers Begin Seeing Results

In the southern agricultural belt, particularly in Logone Occidental and Moyen-Chari provinces, the impact of mechanization is already becoming evident. Farmers growing cotton, sorghum and rice report improved land preparation, earlier planting and higher yields.

"Before, I had to prepare my two hectares entirely by hand with my family. We could never plant on time," says Djasrangar Nadjindo, a cotton farmer near Moundou. "Now, the cooperative tractor comes. In one morning, the ploughing is finished. Last season, my yield doubled because we planted with the first rains."

Cooperative Ownership Making Mechanization Affordable

The government's tractor hire model is built around affordability and cooperative ownership. Farmer groups pay roughly

15,000 CFA francs (about US\$25) per hectare for tractor services, while the state initially absorbs maintenance, fuel and operator costs. Ownership is gradually transferred to well-performing cooperatives, creating a pathway toward long-term sustainability. Development partners, including the African Development Bank and the European Union, have also played a significant role in recapitalizing the country's aging agricultural machinery fleet.

The Spare Parts Challenge

However, the mechanization programme faces a challenge that is becoming increasingly common across emerging agricultural markets: after-sales support.

The availability of spare parts remains severely limited. In some provinces, farmers depend on only a handful of suppliers importing components from neighbouring Cameroon and Nigeria. The result is lengthy equipment downtime and rising operational costs.

"A ten-dollar seal can bring a forty-thousand-dollar tractor to a stop," notes agricultural engineer and FAO consultant Dr. Fatime Djasra. "Mechanization without a functional supply chain is a mirage."

Industry observers argue that the next phase of Chad's agricultural modernization should focus on attracting private investment into equipment dealerships, maintenance services and local distribution networks. Tax incentives and public-private partnerships could help establish a more resilient ecosystem around agricultural machinery.

Renewable Energy Supporting Livestock Production

Mechanization is not only transforming crop production.

In the livestock sector, which contributes more than 20 percent of Chad's Gross

Domestic Product, solar-powered borehole pumps are emerging as a practical solution to water access challenges. In arid regions such as Kanem and Barh El Gazel, solar technology is enabling pastoralist communities to provide water for cattle, goats and camels more efficiently while reducing labour demands on women and children.

The adoption of renewable energy-powered irrigation and watering systems also presents growing opportunities for investors and development agencies seeking climate-smart agricultural solutions across the Sahel.

Innovation Reaches Pastoral Communities

In Mao, a pastoral town in western Chad, solar-powered borehole pumps are reshaping livestock management and reducing the burden of manual labour. Installed through partnerships between local authorities and development organisations, the systems are providing reliable access to water for both communities and livestock.

For herder Aicha Mahamat, the impact has been transformative.

"We used to pull up water with a leather bucket and two donkeys. My arms would burn," she says. "Now I just open a tap. Our animals drink cleaner water, and they are healthier. My daughters can spend more time in school instead of fetching water."

Small Technologies Deliver Big Results

Complementing these investments are mobile fodder choppers powered by small petrol engines. Introduced through livestock cooperatives, the machines process dried crop residues such as millet stalks and groundnut hay into more digestible animal feed.

The technology is helping reduce feed wastage during the dry season while improving livestock nutrition. Veterinary officials report a noticeable decline in malnutrition-related deaths among goats and sheep in areas where the choppers have been adopted.

Women Still Face Mechanization Barriers

The modernization drive has also exposed persistent gender disparities within the agricultural sector.

Women perform a substantial share of agricultural and livestock labour, yet they remain significantly underrepresented in mechanization training programmes and equipment ownership schemes.

"We are told machines are for men," says Céline Kemneloum, who leads a women's vegetable-growing association in Bongor. "We have asked for power tillers for our market gardens, but the authorities think we cannot handle them. We are ready to learn."

Recognizing the challenge, the government has included gender-sensitive mechanization training in its 2024–2028 Agricultural Investment Plan. The programme aims to train 500 female machine operators while encouraging broader participation in mechanized agriculture.

Building a Sustainable Mechanization Industry

Looking ahead, the sustainability of Chad's mechanization agenda may prove to be its greatest test.

Agricultural development experts caution that many donor-supported programmes across Africa struggle once initial funding cycles end. Without reliable maintenance systems, technical expertise and local manufacturing capacity, machinery often falls into disrepair.

Currently, Chad has virtually no domestic capacity to assemble or manufacture agricultural equipment, making the country heavily dependent on imported machinery.

Local Manufacturing Could Change Everything

A potentially significant breakthrough could come through plans to establish a regional agricultural machinery hub in N'Djamena with technical support from India's Ministry of External Affairs.

The proposed facility would assemble affordable power tillers and small irrigation pumps designed specifically for Sahelian farming conditions.

If successfully implemented, the project could lower equipment costs, improve spare parts availability, stimulate local enterprise development and create skilled employment opportunities.



Insight

For investors, development partners and policymakers, Chad's mechanization programme offers more than an agricultural initiative—it presents an opportunity to build an integrated agricultural machinery industry capable of supporting long-term food production, employment and rural economic growth.

The next phase of modernization will depend not only on increasing access to machinery but also on developing local technical expertise, strengthening supply chains and ensuring women and young people play a greater role in mechanized agriculture.

Conclusion

For farmers such as Djasrangar Nadjindo, mechanization is no longer a luxury but a necessity.

"We have tasted the benefit of the machine," he says. "We cannot go back. Even if we must repair it ourselves with wire and patience, we will keep moving."



His words capture both the promise and the challenge of Chad's agricultural transformation. The country's progress will ultimately depend on its ability to sustain investment, strengthen local industries and build resilient agricultural systems that continue delivering benefits long after the first tractors arrive.

Looking ahead, the long-term success of Chad's agricultural mechanization programme will depend not only on increasing the number of tractors and modern farming equipment but also on building a sustainable support ecosystem around these investments. Expanding access to quality spare parts, strengthening local maintenance networks, training technicians and operators, and improving rural financing will be essential to keeping machinery operational throughout its service life. Without these complementary investments, even the most ambitious mechanization initiatives risk delivering only short-term gains.

Despite the challenges, Chad's gradual embrace of mechanized agriculture represents an important step toward transforming its food production systems. With continued government commitment, stronger private sector participation and support from regional and international development partners, mechanization has the potential to improve productivity, create employment opportunities and enhance food security for thousands of farming households. As more African countries pursue agricultural modernization, Chad's experience offers valuable lessons on the importance of pairing equipment investments with reliable infrastructure, technical expertise and long-term maintenance capacity.



MIDDLE EAST SHIPPING CRISIS PUTS PRESSURE ON BRAZIL'S POULTRY AND BEEF EXPORTS

Conflict Disrupts Global Trade Routes as Exporters Seek Alternative Shipping Solutions

Brazil's poultry and beef industries are facing mounting logistical challenges as instability in the Middle East continues to disrupt one of the world's most important maritime trade corridors. Delays at sea, rising freight costs, and increased insurance premiums are placing additional pressure on exporters that depend on reliable shipping routes to supply international markets.

The ongoing security concerns affecting vessels operating near the Strait of Hormuz have forced many shipping companies to alter their routes, suspend selected bookings, and introduce significant war-risk surcharges. These developments are increasing transportation costs and creating uncertainty across global meat supply chains.

Cold Chain Logistics Under Growing Pressure

The impact is particularly severe for

refrigerated cargo. Poultry and beef exports rely on uninterrupted cold-chain logistics to preserve product quality during long-distance transportation. Extended waiting times outside ports and lengthy diversions have increased fuel consumption, refrigeration expenses, and overall operational costs.

Exporters report that while shipments continue to move, additional planning and alternative routing have become essential to avoid major disruptions. Industry analysts believe the situation remains manageable for now, but prolonged instability could place greater strain on exporters and importers alike.

Middle East Remains a Key Market for Brazilian Poultry

The Middle East is one of Brazil's most important destinations for poultry exports, accounting for approximately 30 percent of the country's international chicken sales. Nations such as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates rely heavily on Brazilian poultry

to meet domestic food demand, making uninterrupted trade particularly important for both exporters and buyers.

Although direct exports to Iran represent a smaller share of Brazil's poultry trade, the broader Gulf region remains strategically significant. Any disruption affecting regional shipping routes has the potential to influence supply availability, delivery schedules, and pricing across multiple markets.

Despite these challenges, Brazilian exporters remain optimistic that trade will continue through carefully planned logistics adjustments.

Alternative Shipping Routes Reduce Immediate Risk

To maintain exports, shipping companies and logistics providers have begun redirecting vessels through alternative maritime corridors.

One frequently used option is the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, connecting the Gulf of Aden with the Red Sea, allowing cargo to reach ports serving Saudi Arabia and Jordan through different shipping networks.

For shipments destined for the United Arab Emirates, logistics companies are increasingly routing containers through Oman's Port of Salalah before transporting goods overland to Dubai. Another emerging alternative involves unloading cargo at Khorfakkan Port on the UAE's eastern coastline before final distribution within the Gulf.

Some exporters are also choosing a much longer route around the Cape of Good Hope at the southern tip of Africa. Although this option adds considerable transit time and increases transportation costs, it avoids higher-risk maritime zones and offers greater operational certainty.

Several traders have also redirected shipments originally intended for Middle

Eastern buyers to alternative international markets where demand remains strong.

Higher Freight Costs Challenge Export Competitiveness

While alternative routes help maintain trade, they come at a significant financial cost.

Longer voyages require additional fuel, increased refrigeration time, and higher vessel operating expenses. Congestion at substitute ports has also slowed container processing and customs clearance in some locations.

These additional costs ultimately reduce exporter margins and may contribute to higher prices for importers throughout the region.

Nevertheless, industry participants believe that diversified logistics networks will help prevent widespread supply shortages if the disruptions remain temporary.

Beef Industry Faces Wider Supply Chain Risks

Brazil's beef export sector may experience even greater challenges because the Middle East serves not only as a destination market but also as a critical logistics hub for shipments destined for Asia.

Several Gulf ports function as transshipment centres where cargo is transferred before continuing to major importing countries, including China, the world's largest buyer of Brazilian beef.

If shipping operations across the region remain disrupted, exporters could face delays affecting not only Middle Eastern customers but also important Asian markets that depend on these distribution networks.

Industry representatives warn that prolonged interruptions could affect a substantial share of Brazil's annual beef exports by slowing deliveries and increasing transportation costs throughout the supply chain.

Shipping Companies Introduce War-Risk Charges

International shipping lines have responded by introducing additional security-related fees designed to offset the increased risks of operating in conflict-affected waters.

Many carriers have revised sailing schedules, suspended selected services, and implemented war-risk surcharges for both refrigerated and standard containers. These additional charges can amount to several thousand dollars per container, substantially increasing export costs for meat processors and traders.

Although such measures are intended to protect crews, vessels, and cargo, they also reduce the commercial attractiveness of certain export routes and create additional financial pressure for exporters already dealing with volatile freight markets.

Some global shipping companies have begun restoring selected services using multimodal logistics solutions that combine alternative ports with inland transport corridors. These arrangements are helping reconnect Gulf markets while avoiding areas considered to present elevated security risks.

Industry Demonstrates Resilience

Despite the operational challenges, Brazil's meat industry continues to demonstrate remarkable adaptability. Exporters, logistics providers, and shipping companies are working closely to redesign transportation networks, secure alternative routes, and maintain the steady flow of agricultural products to international customers.

While higher shipping costs and longer delivery times are expected to persist as long as regional tensions remain unresolved, industry experts believe that proactive logistics planning and diversified trade routes

will help safeguard Brazil's position as one of the world's leading suppliers of poultry and beef.

The evolving situation also highlights the importance of resilient global supply chains. As geopolitical events increasingly influence international commerce, exporters across the agricultural sector are investing in more flexible logistics strategies to ensure reliable food supplies for markets around the world.



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One Health: The Global Strategy Strengthening the Fight Against Avian Influenza

Integrated action across animal, human and environmental health is becoming the world's strongest defence against one of the poultry industry's greatest threats.

Avian influenza remains one of the most serious disease threats facing the global poultry industry, with consequences extending far beyond poultry farms. The disease threatens food production, rural livelihoods, wildlife conservation, international trade, and public health. As outbreaks continue to emerge in different parts of the world, governments and international organizations are increasingly embracing the One Health approach—a collaborative strategy that recognises the close relationship between the health of animals, people and the environment.

Experts believe that strengthening cooperation between veterinary authorities, public health agencies, wildlife conservation bodies and environmental institutions is essential to reducing the impact of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and improving preparedness for future disease outbreaks.

A Disease That Affects More Than Poultry

Avian influenza viruses naturally exist among wild birds, particularly migratory waterfowl, which often carry the virus over long distances without showing obvious signs of illness. Problems arise when these viruses

spread to domestic poultry populations, where they can circulate rapidly and, in some cases, evolve into highly pathogenic strains capable of causing devastating outbreaks.

For commercial poultry producers, the consequences can be severe. Entire flocks may need to be culled to contain the disease, resulting in major financial losses for farmers and disruptions to domestic and international poultry markets. Countries affected by outbreaks frequently experience export restrictions, supply shortages and increased production costs, placing additional pressure on national food systems. Beyond the poultry industry, avian influenza also threatens wildlife populations. Large outbreaks among wild birds have resulted in significant mortality events involving numerous species, including some already considered vulnerable or endangered. Conservationists warn that repeated outbreaks could alter ecosystems and reduce biodiversity in sensitive habitats.

Scientists are also paying close attention to the virus's increasing ability to infect mammals. Recent cases involving several mammalian species have highlighted the importance of continuous monitoring, as viruses that adapt to new hosts may present broader public health concerns.

Why the One Health Approach Matters

Traditional disease control programmes often focus on a single sector. However, diseases such as avian influenza move freely between wildlife, domestic animals and, in rare circumstances, humans.

This makes isolated responses less effective.

The One Health model encourages governments and institutions to work together by combining expertise from veterinary medicine, human healthcare, environmental management and wildlife conservation. Information collected from each sector contributes to a more complete understanding of disease movement, enabling earlier detection and faster responses.

This collaborative approach improves surveillance, strengthens laboratory capacity, enhances emergency preparedness and supports coordinated decision-making before outbreaks become widespread.

International Cooperation Driving Global Preparedness

Since the emergence of major HPAI outbreaks over the past two decades, international organisations have significantly expanded cooperation to improve disease prevention and response.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has played a leading role in supporting countries through surveillance programmes, technical guidance, laboratory strengthening and emergency response initiatives.

Working alongside global partners including the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), FAO continues to promote coordinated strategies that address disease risks across the animal-human-environment interface.

These partnerships have helped establish shared

surveillance systems, improve information exchange between countries and develop practical guidance that balances disease control with wildlife conservation objectives.

National Governments Strengthen Coordination

Many countries are now embedding One Health principles within national disease management policies.

Rather than operating independently, ministries responsible for agriculture, health, environment and wildlife are increasingly coordinating surveillance activities, laboratory services and emergency responses.

Common features of national One Health programmes include multi-agency coordination committees, integrated disease reporting systems, shared laboratory networks and joint outbreak investigations.

Several governments have also introduced legislation requiring timely disease reporting while improving information sharing between public institutions responsible for livestock, wildlife and human health.

Training programmes involving veterinarians, medical professionals, environmental specialists and laboratory personnel are helping build stronger national response capacity while improving communication across sectors.

Technology Improves Early Detection

Advances in digital technology are transforming the way countries monitor and respond to avian influenza.

Modern surveillance systems now combine field reports, laboratory results and geographic information to identify emerging disease hotspots more quickly than ever before.



These technologies allow veterinary authorities to monitor outbreaks in near real time and predict areas where future disease spread is more likely.

New forecasting models are also analysing interactions between migratory birds and domestic poultry populations to estimate where virus spillover could occur. Such tools enable governments to strengthen biosecurity and surveillance before outbreaks escalate into national emergencies.

The growing use of geospatial mapping, predictive modelling and digital reporting platforms is expected to become an increasingly important component of global animal disease management.

Biosecurity Remains the First Line of Defence

While surveillance and technology play essential roles, experts agree that strong farm-level biosecurity remains the most

effective defence against avian influenza.

Limiting contact between domestic poultry and wild birds, controlling farm access, maintaining strict sanitation procedures and monitoring flock health all contribute significantly to reducing infection risks.

Rapid reporting of suspected cases allows veterinary authorities to respond quickly, limiting the spread of disease and reducing economic losses for producers.

For commercial poultry operations, investment in biosecurity not only protects production but also strengthens confidence among trading partners and international markets.

Lessons from Recent Outbreaks

Experience from recent global outbreaks has reinforced the importance of preparedness rather than reaction.

Countries with established surveillance systems, effective laboratory networks and strong cooperation between government agencies have generally been able to detect

outbreaks earlier and implement faster control measures.

International sharing of scientific information, surveillance data and best practices has also improved the global response, enabling countries to learn from one another and adapt successful control measures to local conditions.

These lessons continue to shape future disease preparedness strategies and strengthen international collaboration.

Building Resilience for the Future

Global attention is increasingly focused on strengthening long-term resilience against animal diseases that threaten food systems and public health.

International strategies developed for the coming decade place greater emphasis on prevention, coordinated governance and sustained investment in surveillance, research and biosecurity.

The One Health approach is now widely recognised as a practical framework for addressing diseases that affect multiple sectors simultaneously. By encouraging collaboration between agriculture, health and environmental institutions, countries can improve outbreak preparedness while protecting food production, biodiversity and human well-being.

As avian influenza continues to evolve, experts agree that no single institution or country can tackle the challenge alone. Continued investment in integrated surveillance, strong legislation, scientific innovation and international cooperation will be essential to safeguarding the poultry industry and ensuring resilient food systems for future generations.

Editorial Conclusion

The continued spread of avian influenza serves as a powerful reminder that disease threats no longer respect national borders or sectoral boundaries. Protecting the poultry industry today requires more than rapid outbreak response—it demands sustained investment in prevention, scientific research, strong veterinary services, and effective collaboration between governments, producers, researchers and international organizations.

For Africa, where poultry farming supports millions of livelihoods and plays a vital role in food security, adopting the One Health approach is becoming increasingly important. Strengthening farm biosecurity, expanding disease surveillance, improving laboratory capacity and encouraging timely information sharing will not only help reduce the impact of future outbreaks but also strengthen confidence in regional and international poultry trade.

As climate change, wildlife migration and expanding global trade continue to reshape disease dynamics, preparedness must remain a priority rather than a reaction. The future resilience of the livestock sector will depend on coordinated action, informed policy and continued innovation.

Ultimately, safeguarding animal health means protecting human health, preserving biodiversity and securing the food systems that millions of families depend on every day. The One Health approach offers a practical pathway toward achieving these shared goals, ensuring that the poultry industry remains productive, sustainable and resilient in the face of emerging global challenges.

FEED GHANA PROGRAMME INTRODUCES DRONE TECHNOLOGY TO HELP FARMERS IMPROVE PRODUCTIVITY, REDUCE INPUT COSTS AND MODERNISE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION.

Ghana has taken another important step towards modernising its agricultural sector with the introduction of agricultural drone technology under the government's Feed Ghana Programme, an initiative aimed at improving farm productivity, promoting precision agriculture and strengthening national food security. The move reflects the country's growing commitment to integrating digital innovation into farming as part of broader efforts to increase agricultural efficiency, reduce production costs and build a more resilient food system capable of meeting rising domestic demand.

As part of the programme, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture has distributed five agricultural drone units to the Peasant Farmers Association of Ghana (PFAG), together with 40,000 bags of inorganic fertiliser to support farmers during the major planting season in northern Ghana and the upcoming minor season in the southern regions. The intervention forms part of a wider strategy to equip farmers with modern technologies while improving access to essential agricultural inputs that can enhance crop production across the country.

Speaking during the handover ceremony, Minister for Food and Agriculture Eric Opoku described the introduction of drone technology as a significant milestone in Ghana's agricultural transformation agenda. He said the investment represents more than the acquisition of new equipment, noting that it signals the country's transition towards data-driven farming systems capable of improving productivity while making agriculture more efficient and sustainable.

The Minister explained that agricultural drones will provide farmers and producer organisations with the ability to monitor crop development more accurately, detect pests and diseases at an early stage, identify nutrient deficiencies, map farmland and assess crop performance throughout the growing season. By providing detailed aerial information, the technology enables producers to respond quickly to emerging challenges before they affect yields, allowing more informed management decisions based on real-time field conditions rather than traditional observation methods alone.

Officials believe the adoption of precision agriculture technologies will help farmers optimise the use of fertilisers, crop protection products and other inputs, reducing unnecessary expenditure while improving production efficiency. Targeted application of agricultural inputs is also expected to minimise environmental impacts by reducing chemical overuse and promoting more responsible resource management.

The introduction of drone technology is expected to strengthen agricultural extension services by providing extension officers with improved tools for monitoring crop conditions, supporting farm mapping and collecting data needed for planning and policy development. The information generated through drone surveys can also assist authorities in responding more effectively to climate-related production challenges, pest outbreaks and changing weather conditions, improving the country's overall agricultural preparedness.

Government officials have emphasised that digital technologies will play an increasingly important role in achieving the objectives of the Feed Ghana Programme, which seeks to increase domestic food production, reduce dependence on imported food commodities, strengthen agricultural value chains and create employment opportunities throughout the sector. The programme combines investments in mechanisation, irrigation development, improved access to agricultural inputs and modern farming technologies to support long-term agricultural growth.

The use of drones is also expected to encourage greater youth participation in agriculture by demonstrating that farming is becoming increasingly technology-driven. Across Africa, governments are recognising that innovation, digital tools and mechanisation are helping reshape agriculture into a modern business sector that offers opportunities for entrepreneurship, skilled employment and sustainable economic development. Technologies such as drones, satellite imagery, digital advisory platforms and precision farming systems are increasingly attracting young professionals who see agriculture as a sector driven by innovation rather than traditional labour-intensive practices.

Agricultural experts have welcomed the initiative, noting that precision farming technologies are becoming essential for improving productivity while addressing the growing challenges of climate variability, rising production costs and pressure on natural resources. Access to accurate field data enables farmers to make better production decisions, improve yields and manage risks more effectively, particularly as weather patterns become increasingly unpredictable.

The success of the programme, however, will depend on continued investment in farmer training, technical support, equipment maintenance and reliable extension services. Ensuring that operators possess the necessary skills to use drone technology effectively, while establishing maintenance and repair systems, will be critical to maximising the long-term benefits of the investment. Experts also stress the importance of expanding digital infrastructure and improving access to affordable technologies so that smaller farming communities can benefit alongside larger commercial producers.

Ghana's latest investment reflects a broader trend across Africa, where governments are increasingly embracing digital agriculture to improve productivity and strengthen food security. As countries continue modernising their agricultural sectors, technologies that enhance decision-making, improve efficiency and support climate-smart farming are expected to become central to future agricultural development strategies. With sustained investment and effective implementation, Ghana's adoption of agricultural drones could contribute significantly to building a more productive, competitive and resilient agricultural sector capable of supporting economic growth and ensuring reliable food supplies for future generations.





"EFFECTIVE BIOSECURITY PRACTICES, REGULAR VETERINARY SUPPORT AND PROPER HERD MANAGEMENT PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE IN REDUCING DISEASE RISKS AND IMPROVING PIG PRODUCTION."

Recent research has highlighted significant gaps in biosecurity practices among pig farms in Cameroon's West Region, raising concerns about animal health, production efficiency and the long-term sustainability of the country's pig industry. The findings suggest that improving farm biosecurity could substantially reduce disease losses, improve productivity and strengthen food security in a sector that continues to play an important role in supplying affordable animal protein to rural and urban communities.

The study, published in the scientific journal *Porcine Health Management*, evaluated biosecurity practices and production performance across 78 pig farms between April and October 2024. Researchers assessed farm management practices, veterinary drug use and production records to better understand how disease prevention measures influence pig performance under local production conditions.

According to the researchers, preventive use of veterinary medicines is widespread among pig producers in the region. Nearly all farms surveyed reported using antiparasitic treatments, while antibiotics were commonly administered for both disease prevention and treatment. However, vaccination coverage

against swine erysipelas—a disease capable of causing significant production losses—remained relatively low, indicating opportunities to strengthen preventive animal health programmes.

Despite the widespread use of veterinary medicines, the study found that overall biosecurity standards remain below recommended levels on many farms. More than sixty percent of the surveyed farms recorded biosecurity scores below the halfway mark, suggesting that many producers are still not implementing essential disease prevention measures capable of limiting the introduction and spread of infectious diseases.

Researchers observed that the weakest area of biosecurity involved the management of people entering and leaving pig farms. Limited control of visitors, inadequate sanitation procedures and insufficient protective measures for farm workers were identified as some of the most common weaknesses. In contrast, farms generally performed better in practices related to farrowing management and environmental hygiene, demonstrating that producers have adopted some important husbandry measures while other critical areas require greater attention.

The study also found that biosecurity standards were influenced by several factors, including farmers' level of experience, access to training, herd size, production system and the type of pigs being raised. Producers with greater technical knowledge and larger commercial operations generally demonstrated stronger biosecurity practices than smaller or less experienced farmers.

One of the most significant findings was the clear relationship between biosecurity and production performance. Farms with lower biosecurity standards experienced considerably higher mortality rates than those implementing stronger disease prevention measures. Researchers concluded that improving farm biosecurity could lead to healthier animals, lower production losses and better overall productivity, reducing the financial burden associated with disease outbreaks.

The research further indicated that good management practices contribute to improved reproductive performance. Relationships were observed between biosecurity measures and production indicators such as lactation management, suggesting that disease prevention extends beyond animal survival to influence overall herd efficiency and profitability.

Livestock specialists note that biosecurity should not be viewed as a single intervention but rather as a combination of management practices designed to prevent disease from entering or spreading within a farm. These measures include controlling farm access, isolating newly introduced animals, maintaining effective cleaning and disinfection routines, managing waste appropriately, ensuring proper vaccination programmes and working closely with

Across Africa, pig production continues to expand in response to growing demand for affordable animal protein. However, infectious diseases remain one of the greatest challenges limiting productivity, particularly among smallholder farmers who often operate with limited access to veterinary services, infrastructure and technical support. Strengthening biosecurity has therefore become an increasingly important priority for governments, veterinary authorities and development organisations seeking to improve livestock production while protecting farmers' livelihoods.

The researchers concluded that increasing farmer awareness and expanding practical training programmes will be essential to improving biosecurity compliance across the sector. They recommend greater investment in extension services, veterinary support and farmer education to encourage the adoption of practical disease prevention measures that can improve pig health, reduce mortality and enhance farm profitability. As Cameroon continues to strengthen its livestock industry, the study demonstrates that relatively simple improvements in day-to-day farm management could deliver substantial benefits for producers, consumers and the country's broader food security objectives.

As African countries continue investing in livestock development, experts believe that strengthening on-farm biosecurity will remain one of the most cost-effective strategies for improving pig health and farm profitability. Greater collaboration between farmers, veterinary professionals, extension services and policymakers will be essential in promoting practical disease prevention measures that reduce production losses, enhance animal welfare and build a more resilient pig industry capable of supporting food security and rural economic growth.

RESEARCHERS ARE CALLING FOR STRONGER SOIL MONITORING AND RESPONSIBLE PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT TO PROTECT AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ACROSS AFRICA.

A new continental study has raised fresh concerns about pesticide contamination in African agricultural soils, revealing that residues of numerous crop protection chemicals remain widespread across farming systems and may pose growing risks to soil health, biodiversity and agricultural sustainability. The research, conducted between 2022 and 2024, examined soil samples collected from 13 African countries and provides one of the most comprehensive assessments to date of pesticide residues across the continent's agricultural landscapes.

Researchers analysed 272 topsoil samples for more than 150 pesticide compounds, including active ingredients and their breakdown products. The findings showed that pesticide residues were detected in the majority of the samples, with dozens of different chemicals identified. Several of the detected substances were reported to be either unregistered for use in the countries where they were found or no longer permitted in some international markets, highlighting ongoing challenges surrounding pesticide regulation, enforcement and responsible chemical management.

Among the compounds most frequently detected were pesticides and chemical residues that have previously attracted international attention because of their potential impacts on human health, wildlife and the environment. Researchers noted that while pesticides remain essential tools for protecting crops against pests, weeds and diseases, their misuse, excessive application or persistence in the environment can contribute to long-term soil degradation, contamination of water resources and adverse effects on beneficial organisms that support agricultural productivity.

The study also found that pesticide concentrations varied considerably between sampling sites, with some locations recording levels that may present elevated ecological risks. According to the researchers, several chemicals exceeded environmental risk thresholds in certain areas, suggesting that some farming systems could face increasing pressure from the cumulative effects of pesticide use. The findings emphasise the importance of strengthening monitoring systems, improving farmer training on safe pesticide use and promoting integrated pest management



practices that reduce dependence on chemical crop protection while maintaining agricultural productivity.

Agricultural and environmental experts say the study highlights the need for stronger collaboration between governments, regulatory authorities, researchers and the private sector to improve pesticide stewardship across Africa. Expanding residue monitoring programmes, strengthening enforcement of pesticide regulations and encouraging the adoption of sustainable crop protection technologies will be essential to protecting soil health while ensuring that African agriculture continues to meet the continent's growing food production needs in an environmentally responsible manner.

AFRICA'S DIVERSE YAM GENETIC RESOURCES ARE PROVIDING SCIENTISTS WITH NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO DEVELOP IMPROVED, CLIMATE-RESILIENT VARIETIES THAT CAN STRENGTHEN FOOD SECURITY ACROSS THE CONTINENT.

A recent scientific study has highlighted the remarkable genetic diversity of African yam, providing valuable insights that could strengthen future breeding programmes and improve food security across Sub-Saharan Africa. Researchers analysed more than 1,200 yam samples collected from Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Nigeria and Uganda to better understand the genetic relationships among six important yam species.

Using advanced DNA analysis, the researchers found considerable genetic variation both within and between the species, offering plan

t breeders a rich pool of genetic resources for developing improved yam varieties

The study also provided new evidence on the evolutionary relationships of several yam species, contributing to a better understanding of the domestication history of white yam, one of West Africa's most important staple crops.

The researchers say conserving Africa's diverse yam germplasm will be critical for developing future varieties that are more productive, resilient to climate change and resistant to pests and diseases. They emphasise that continued investment in agricultural research, conservation and breeding programmes will play an important role in supporting millions of farmers who rely on yam for food, nutrition and household income.





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Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Supports Livestock Disease Control with Major GALVmed Funding

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, in partnership with the United Kingdom's former Department for International Development (DFID), committed more than US\$51 million to the Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicines (GALVmed) to accelerate the development and delivery of affordable livestock vaccines, medicines and diagnostic technologies for smallholder farmers in developing countries. The investment was designed to strengthen animal health systems, improve food security and protect the livelihoods of millions of rural households that depend on livestock for income, nutrition and economic resilience.

The funding supports GALVmed's efforts to expand access to essential animal health products by improving vaccine production, strengthening disease surveillance, enhancing veterinary services and removing barriers that limit the availability of quality livestock medicines. The programme focuses on combating some of the most economically damaging livestock diseases affecting Africa and other developing regions, including East Coast fever, Newcastle disease, Rift Valley fever, Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia and Contagious Caprine Pleuropneumonia, while also supporting work on diseases that can be transmitted from animals to humans.

According to the Foundation, improving livestock health is a critical component of reducing poverty and strengthening agricultural development. Healthy animals provide reliable sources of food, income and financial security for millions of farming families, while improved disease control contributes to increased livestock productivity, stronger rural economies and more resilient food systems. The initiative also promotes partnerships between research institutions, vaccine manufacturers, governments and the private sector to ensure that innovations reach farmers who need them most.

The investment reflects the continued commitment of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to advancing agricultural innovation and supporting sustainable livestock development across low- and middle-income countries. By expanding access to affordable veterinary technologies and strengthening local production capacity, the programme aims to reduce the impact of livestock diseases, improve animal welfare and create long-term opportunities for smallholder farmers to increase productivity, enhance household incomes and contribute to national food security.