

Senior Fellowship for Dr. Luc Hippolyte Dossa: Cross-border and regional livestock mobility along the transect from the Sahel to Southern Benin: risks and opportunities for animal genetic resources and livestock production

Initiative: Wissen für morgen – Kooperative Forschungsvorhaben im subsaharischen Afrika (beendet)

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Cross-border and regional livestock mobility is critical for pastoral and agro-pastoral livelihoods in the West African region. However, the availability and herders' utilization of different pastoral resources including animal genetic patrimony, grasslands, browse, and water along the mobility routes from the Sahel to the West African Coast are still poorly understood. These bottleneck issues require research attention, and will be critical in informing policies and avoiding over-exploitation and degradation of natural resources. The main objectives of the study are therefore to: i) analyze mobile pastoralists' uses and management of natural resources (animals, rangelands) along the mobility routes, thereby accounting for interactions with sedentary pastoralists; ii) quantify the effects of mobility and its associated network of exchanges between mobile and sedentary herders on the genetic structure and diversity of local cattle populations, and on the productivity of both livestock and rangelands, and iii) derive recommendations for improved livelihoods of pastoralists, conservation of diversity in animal genetic resources, and hence for securing herd productivity in the region.

Projektbeteiligte

Prof. Dr. Hartmut Stützel

Universität Hannover
Naturwissenschaftliche Fakultät
Institut für Gartenbauliche Produktionssysteme
Abteilung Systemmodellierung Gemüsebau
Hannover

Dr. Luc Hippolyte Dossa

University of Abomey-Calavi
Faculty of Agricultural Sciences
Porto-Novo
Benin

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