

## S.6 GEOG 3 NOTES.

### Topic: **AGRICULTURE IN UGANDA.**

Sub topic: ANIMAL HUSBANDRY (LIVESTOCK FARMING).

Livestock farming/Animal husbandry is the rearing of animals and birds.

The animals reared in Uganda include mainly cattle, goats, Sheep, pigs and poultry especially chicken, Turkeys and ducks etc.

Livestock farming in Uganda is categorised into the following;

- **Nomadic pastoralism**, common in districts of Moroto, Kaabong, Kotido, Nakapiripiriti, Nakasongola, Buliisa, Kiruhura etc.
- **Ranching**, common in districts of Mbarara, Rakai, Lira, Mpigi, Kibaale, Masindi, Nakasongola etc.
- **Dairy farming**, common in Bushenyi, Wakiso, Mbarara, Kabale etc.
- **Zero grazing**, common in many urban areas e.g. Kampala, Mukono, Mbarara, Jinja, Kabale etc.
- **Poultry**, in areas of Kampala, Jinja, Gulu, Lira, Soroti, Wakiso and many other areas throughout the country.
- **Piggery**, commonly practiced areas Masaka, Luwero, Gulu, Jinja etc.

*Draw a sketchmap of Uganda showing areas where livestock farming is carried out.*

#### **Status of livestock industry.**

- ✓ Livestock farming is largely practiced at subsistence level.
- ✓ The industry is poorly developed.
- ✓ The industry contributes about 5% to GDP.
- ✓ Livestock products e.g. milk, meat, hides, are mainly sold in raw form.
- ✓ The industry is dominated by unskilled people.
- ✓ The indigenous low quality animals are mainly kept.
- ✓ Efforts are being undertaken to use more scientific methods like deworming, spraying, Ranching, Cross breeding to improve.

#### **NOMADIC PASTORALISM.**

This is a form of subsistence livestock farming which involves the keeping of animals where a farmer moves with animals from one place to another in search for water and pasture for the animals.

It is practiced in districts of Kaabong, Kotido, Moroto, Nakapiripiriti by the karamajongs. Parts of Mbarara, Rakai, Kiruhura, Ssembabule, Mubende (Ankole -Masaka dry corridor) mainly by the Bahima and also parts of Nakasongola by the Barui.

### **Characteristics of nomadic pastoralism in Uganda.**

- Animals are mainly kept for subsistence i.e. milk, meat and blood for home consumption.
- Different types of animals are kept e.g. cattle, goats and sheep.
- Large herds of low quality animals are kept for prestigious reasons.
- Transhumance is practiced i.e. seasonal movement in search for water and pasture.
- Animals depend on natural pastures for grazing.
- Burning of bushes is done at the end of the dry season in anticipation of fresh new grass at the beginning of the wet season.
- Local breeds of animals are kept e.g. zebu by the karamajongs and Ankole long horned cattle by the bahima.

*Draw a sketchmap of Uganda showing areas where nomadic pastoralism is practiced.*

### **Conditions for the persistence/ occurrence of Nomadic pastoralism in Uganda.**

Climatic conditions. Areas that experience low amounts of rainfall below 650 mm p.a. can not support arable farming rather supports the growth of abundant pastures hence encouraging nomadic pastoralism. This is evident in Moroto, Kotido districts.

Severe prolonged droughts also encourage nomadic pastoralism because they result into shortage of pastures and therefore the livestock farmers are forced to move from one place to another on search for water and pastures for their animals. This is common in Kotido, Nakapiripiriti .etc.

The sparsely populated areas that provide adequate grazing land for the pastoralists. This is evident with areas that are sparsely populated e.g. karamoja region in districts of Moroto, Kaabong with population density of less than 50 persons per/km.

Availability of adequate pastures in the areas where nomadic pastoralism is practiced that are nutritious and palatable for grazing animals also has encouraged nomadic pastoralism in places like Nakasongola, Kiruhura etc.

The presence of infertile skeletal soils with low moisture that do not support arable farming but can support the growth of pastures has also encouraged people to carry out nomadic pastoralism. This is evident in Rakai, Buliisa districts.

Culture and believe. The nomads believe that keeping livestock is part of their culture and tradition this therefore has encouraged the continuity of nomadic pastoralism. This is seen in the districts of Abim, Nakapiripiriti and many others.

Conservatism, the nomadic pastoralists are very rigid about their traditional way of lifestyle and therefore they are not willing to change to modern ways of looking after animals and has also encouraged the occurrence of the practice e.g. at Moroto, Mbarara etc.

The communal ownership of land in areas where livestock farming is common. Since the land is owned communally this encourages farmers to move from one place to another in search of pastures and water without any restrictions. This common in Kotido, Moroto districts.

The poor methods of looking after the animals like overstocking, communal grazing which results into overgrazing and consequently shortage of pastures forcing farmers to move to different places for the search pastures thus nomadic pastoralism. e.g. at Nakasongola, Buliisa etc.

Limited capital to invest in livestock farming. Farmers lack adequate funds to buy better breeds of animals, establish ranches, to pay for veterinary services etc. This has encouraged the existence pests and diseases that force people to practice nomadism.

Limited support from the government. The government had not done enough to address limitations in the livestock sector in terms of funding and education to farmers to change their ways of living. This also has caused continuity of nomadic pastoralism in areas like Kotido, Moroto etc.

The presence of undeveloped transport and communication networks in areas where nomadic pastoralism is practiced. This has rendered such areas to remain remote thus being left behind for development with poor social services and as a result people have resorted to nomadic pastoralism e.g. Nakapiripiriti, Moroto etc.

Insecurity caused by cattle rustling and raids which is common in areas where nomadic pastoralism is practiced. People tend to move from one area to another in a bid to secure their animals and lives from the cattle rustlers who normally come from their neighbouring communities. This is common in Kaabong, Amudat etc.

The presence of dangerous wild animals like lions, Leopards etc. These animals attack the animals and the farmers sometimes causing deaths and as a result nomads move from those areas to other places to run away from the wild animals thus causing nomadic pastoralism.

The presence of pests and diseases. Many of those areas where pastoralism is common are infested with pests like tse tse flies that spread nagana in animals and sleeping sickness in human, ticks that cause the east coast fever in animals and many other diseases like foot and mouth disease. Farmers tend to move away from such infested areas resulting in nomadism.

#### RANCHING IN UGANDA.

This refers to keeping of livestock mainly cattle for beef production and for commercial purposes.

Ranching in Uganda is mainly practiced in the districts of Kiruhura, Rakai, Masaka, Mpigi, Gulu, Kitgum, Mbarara, Mubende, Lwengo etc.

#### **Characteristics of commercial Ranching in Uganda.**

- Cattle are mainly kept for beef.
- The livestock kept is mainly for sale.
- Farms are sub divided into paddocks.
- The animals are rotated around the paddocks to control grazing.
- There is no over grazing because the carrying capacity is strictly followed.
- Animals are grazed on permanent farms/ ranches.
- There are permanent water sources on the farms for the animals.
- Selective breeding to produce high quality breeds is done.
- Scientific methods of animal keeping are provided e.g. cattle dipping, artificial insemination etc.
- Record keeping on the farms is done.

*Draw sketchmap of Uganda showing the main Ranching schemes.*

- ❖ *Make brief notes on the economic significances of livestock farming in Uganda.*

Consider the following outlines.

*Positively.*

- Source of food
- Raw materials
- Foreign exchange
- Local revenue to government
- Employment
- Infrastructural development
- Research
- Economic diversification
- Promoted tourism
- Source of fertilizers
- Used for bride price
- Source of labour-ox plough
- Promoted art and craft

- Promoted international relations
- Etc.

Negatively.

- Over grazing
- Bush burning
- Insecurity- cattle rustling
- Famine
- School drop outs
- Land conflicts.
- Etc.

***Problems affecting livestock farming in Uganda.***

Unfavourable climatic conditions associated with low and unreliable rainfall which causes scarcity of surface water resulting into shortage of water for the animals and farmers at different water points. This leads to low animal yields like milk, poor quality beef from the livestock. This is evident at Moroto, Nakasongola etc.

Shortage of pastures normally caused by prolonged droughts and over grazing. This forces farmers to move with their animals to trek for long distances in search for water which affects the health and productivity of the livestock e.g. at Buliisa and Nakapiripiriti districts.

Poor methods of animal keeping e.g. overstocking of animals which causes overgrazing thus shortage of pastures, bush burning is also common especially with nomadic pastoralism which results into soil erosion affecting the growth of pastures e.g. lyantonde and Moroto districts.

Poor quality breeds of animals kept. The animal breeds kept by most farmers take long to mature and also have a low productivity capacity like milk, beef and many others and as a result they are not economically viable to be reared.e.g. the Zebu cow in Moroto, the Ankole long horned cow in Mbarara.

Presence of animal pests and diseases that affect all kinds of animals in the country e.g. swine fever disease in pigs in Masaka, the foot and mouth disease that affects the cattle in Nakasongola, The tse tse flies that spread Nagana in animals in the areas of Kiruhura. These affect the health of animals thus affecting productivity and in many cases cause death of animals.

Inaccessibility to veterinary services and this is due to the fact that many animal farms are located in remote areas with poor roads to allow veterinary doctors to visit the farms advise and treating the animals. This has affected the health and productivity of the animals e.g. nomadic pastoralism in Abim and Kaabong districts.

Cattle rustling which is common with nomadic pastoralism. This is as a result of tribal raids especially among the nomads who occasionally raid their neighbours' animals which sometimes lead to loss of lives and general insecurity in those areas.e.g. Turkana from Kenya raid karamajongs in the districts of Kotido and Kaabong.

There is a problem of conservatism and rigidity especially among the nomads who are not willing to abandon their traditional subsistence methods of looking after animals to more modern productive methods so as to improve on animal productivity.e.g. in Moroto and kotido districts.

Limited government support in form of extending veterinary services to farmers, funding of the livestock sector, research in livestock farming extension of transport and communication networks in areas that predominantly practice livestock farming. This has resulted into farmers resorting to traditional methods that are not very productive e.g. cattle keeping in Nakasongola and Buliisa districts.

Shortage of capital to invest in livestock farming. The majority of livestock farmers can not afford to buy the necessary input like buying improved breeds of animals, pay for veterinary services, buy chemicals for spraying against pests etc. This therefore forces farmers to stick to traditional ways of rearing animals that are not productive.e.g. piggery in Masaka and Jinja, Ranching in Mubende.

Less developed transport and communication networks characterised by poor roads with potholes especially in the rural areas where livestock farming is common. This has limited transportation of animal products like milk, eggs to market centres leading to losses to farmers e.g. poultry farming in Iira and Gulu.

The land tenure systems like the communal ownership of land in areas common with nomadic pastoralism that encourages communal grazing results to easy spread of diseases and overgrazing all these affect the health and productivity of animals e.g. Nakapiripiti.

Shortage of market for the animal products like milk, eggs, beef, hides etc. This is because many people can not afford due to poverty and also due to inaccessibility to market due to poor transport networks consequently farmers make losses.eg. dairy farming in Kabaale and Bushenyi districts.

The nature of relief. Some areas are mountainous with steep slopes which makes the movement of animals quite difficult and also such steep slopes discourage growth of pastures therefore there is very limited livestock like cattle farming in such areas e.g. Sironko and Bududa areas around mt. Elgon, Bundibugyo around mt. Rwenzori.

Corruption through embezzlement of funds directed to the development of livestock farming. This is seen through the government programs and institutions like NAADS where the officers swindle the funds meant to buy better breeds of animals, and for advisory purposes.e.g. poultry farming in Tororo, cattle keeping in Luweero etc.

Shortage of land for grazing especially in areas that are densely populated. In such areas land is usually used for other activities like settlement, industrialisation crop growing to support the big population consequently it has discouraged ranching that require large land e.g. in Wakiso, Iganga districts.

Less developed technology that results into the use of poor methods/technology of livestock farming that are not very efficient e.g. lack of milking machines, lack of cooling plants to store the animal products like milk and beef, processing factories have also not developed due to poor technology in the country.

#### **Measures taken to improve on livestock farming in Uganda.**

Construction of valley dams and underground tanks to work as water reservoirs for the surplus water during the rainy season so that it can be used during the dry season when the water for the animals is scarce. There is also sinking of boreholes to provide permanent sources of water for both the farmers and animals e.g. in Nakasongola, Kitgum etc.

Establishment of processing plants for the animal products so as to preserve and improve on the quality of products for increases returns but also to provide market for the products e.g. GBK milk processing factory in Mbarara, Jesa dairies in Wakiso.

Improvement in transport and communication networks ensure easy transportation animal products to markets and also farm inputs and services to the areas where livestock farming is commonly practiced e.g. mbarara-masaka-kampala road, Nakasongola- luweero-kampala road etc.

Diversification of livestock farming where by different types of animals are reared e.g. pigs, goats, rabbits etc. This is done to reduce on overdependence on cattle keeping that may be prone to problems like disease outbreaks resulting into losses e.g. Arua, Gulu districts.

Research and development of scientific methods of livestock farming e.g. artificial insemination and cross-breeding are encouraged to improve on the quality of animals that are more productive and therefore profitable but also resistant to diseases and harsh climatic conditions. This done with cattle, piggery in Mbarara and Gulu respectively.

Importation of improved animal breeds in order to cross breed with the local breeds. This is done to improve on the quality and productivity of the animals e.g. Frisian, jersey cows from Netherlands, Goats from South Africa this is seen in areas of Mbarara, Bushenyi.

Extension of credit facilities to livestock farmer through micro finance institutions and banks. This is done to provide farmers with funds to invest and improve on the livestock sector e.g. Bank of Uganda has a special loan offer to large-scale farmers, Centenary bank also has a special agricultural loan to farmers and livestock farmers in Mbarara, Mpigi have utilised these facilities.

Promotion of more efficient methods of keeping animals especially cattle like zero grazing, and rotational grazing to avoid things like overgrazing and easy spread of diseases caused by other methods like communal grazing e.g. in mukono, Kabaale etc.

Control of pests and diseases. This is done through vaccination of animals like pigs, cattle, poultry against various diseases like rinderpest, foot and mouth disease, and also spraying against pests like tse tse flies, ticks etc. This in turn has improved the health and productivity of the livestock e.g. Nakasongola, Lyantonde etc.

The government has enforced the disarmament of the pastoral communities in a bid to control insecurity caused by cattle rustling among the nomads and as a result there has been reduced cases of cattle rustling. This is evident in Kotido, Nakapiripiriti.

The government has also improved on security in areas that had general insecurity problems caused by political upheaval. This has been done by UPDF, Police and other security agencies and as a result there has been restored peace thus promoting livestock farming e.g. Kasese and Bundibugyo areas were being disturbed by ADF rebels, Gulu, Lira, Kitgum were destabilised by LRA rebels for over 20 yrs.

Introduction of improved and exotic pastures which grow very fast and very nutritious thus improving the quality and productivity of animals e.g. napia grass, alfa alfa grass, elephant grass etc. This is common with ranching in Masindi, Mbarara etc.

Mixed farming is emphasized where farmers keep animals at the same time growing crops. This helps in such a way that crop residues e.g. maize are used as animal feeds but also the animal residues are used as organic fertilizers for the crops and in this way they solving the problem of shortage of pastures e.g. In Mbale, Mukono, Mbarara.



Sensitization of the masses on the modern methods of livestock farming that are more efficient. This is done by NAADS and programs like plan for modernisation of agriculture through seminars and workshops, the media like radios and news papers plus exhibitions like the annual agricultural show in Jinja. This has helped cattle farmers in Jinja, poultry farmers in Wakiso etc.

Encouraging private investors to invest in the sector since they come with sufficient funds, skilled man power e.g. Uga-chick poultry farming in Gayaza by ssekalaala, Kisozi cattle ranch in Mpigi by H.E museveni, Jesa dairy farm in Wakiso by Mulwana family.

Formation of livestock farmers cooperative unions to enable farmers to get loans at low rates and other farm inputs at subsidized prices like milk cooling plants but also help in the marketing of their animal products like milk, eggs and meat e.g. Uganda national local chicken farmers association. This has encouraged poultry farmers in Masaka, Mityana etc.

Widening of both local and international markets for the livestock products by both the government and private individual farmers and traders. This has been done through organising agricultural exhibition for the local market but also through export e.g. eggs are exported to South Sudan and Kenya, milk is exported to Tanzania and DRC. This has encouraged poultry farmers in Gulu, Arua and cattle keepers in Mbarara, Bushenyi etc.