



وكالة ترقية الاستثمارات في موريتانيا
AGENCE DE PROMOTION DES INVESTISSEMENTS EN MAURITANIE

INVESTMENT GUIDE ANIMAL PRODUCTION IN MAURITANIA



ANIMAL PRODUCTION





IN MAURITANIA



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GENERAL DATA
ON MAURITANIA



The Islamic Republic of Mauritania (RIM) is in West Africa and covers an area of 1,303,700 km². It is a junction between sub-Saharan Africa and North Africa. It is characterized by its attractive beaches overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, over a length of 754 km, its vast desert areas are adorned with enchanting sand dunes and mountain ranges.

Mauritania, which has an estimated population of about 4,500,000, has significant economic resources consisting mainly of minerals, hydrocarbons, animal

resources and fish, in addition to large arable areas and a favorable climate to produce large quantities of renewable energy.

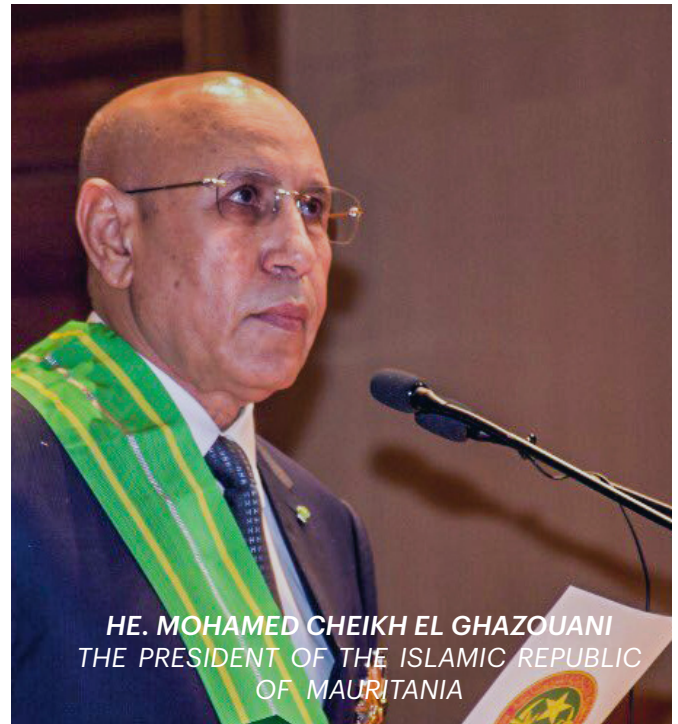
The growth rate reached 5.6% in 2019, before registering a contraction of 2.3% following the spread of the new coronavirus pandemic (Covid-19). But growth is expected to return in 2021 with a forecast of 3% and an increase over the next two years to exceed 6% by 2023.





It has also become an example in the sub-region following the successful organization of free and transparent presidential elections that have enshrined the peaceful alternation of power between two democratically elected presidents, based on what the constitutional rules dictate.

Mauritania stands out in the Sahel region for its political stability and security, which has led it to set an example in the fight against violent extremism, terrorism and trafficking of all kinds, through a security approach that combines ideological and political aspects, on the one hand, with security and military capacity building, on the other.





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INTRODUCTION



The livestock sector, although largely undervalued, is characterized by a good contribution to the national economy. According to the National Livestock Development Plan **2018-2025**, it represents nearly **70%** of the value added of the rural sector and employs more than **70%** of the labor force.

Production contains mainly red meat (with a surplus of **40%** of national production), milk and animal leather.

Due to recurrent droughts, the development of services and opportunities in cities, have caused a massive rural exodus mainly to urban centers, leading to changes in animal production systems. Thus, the nomadic way of life has decreased from **60%**, in **1960**, to **5%** today.

In seeking to promote the development of livestock, several actions have been implemented through **national and regional programs and projects** initiated by the State, socio-professional organizations and **NGOs** in collaboration with development partners. These actions have led to notable advances in livestock development, particularly in animal health and the socio-economic benefits of the sector.



To reinforce these achievements, Mauritania adopted in **2012** a rural sector development strategy (**SDSR**) and an Agricultural Pastoral Guidance Act (**LOA**), which attach great importance to the livestock sector. This was illustrated by a new national dynamic, a demonstrated political will, and a commitment of the Public Authorities for a promotion focused on the valorization of animal production in Mauritania.



Thus, the creation, on **May 26, 2021**, of a specific Department for Animal Husbandry is proof of the interest of the highest Mauritanian authorities in the development of animal industry and the effective involvement of all stakeholders to ensure a sustainable socio-economic impact of the sector.

This important decision was preceded by the creation, announced by decree adopted by the Council of Ministers on **14 April 2021**, of a Special Allocation Account called: Fund for the Promotion of Livestock Development (**FPDE**).

These measures should make more operational the implementation of the National Livestock Development Plan (**PNDE**) for the period of **2018-2025** designed to operationalize the SDSR and to better meet the needs of the actors and partners of the sector. Its overall objective is the sustainable increase of animal production, which should contribute particularly in improving and increasing the contribution of the livestock sector to the reduction of food insecurity and to accelerated growth and shared prosperity.

In this guide, we will discuss in detail the potential of Mauritania in the field of livestock, the opportunities for investment in this sector and the availability of infrastructure necessary for its development.





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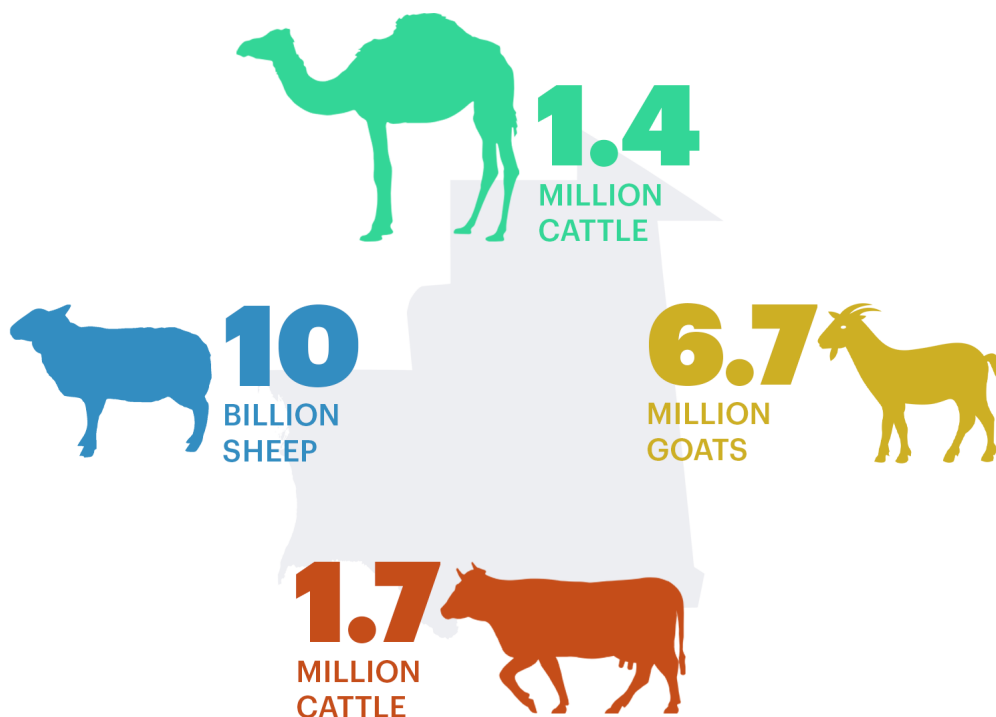
**THE POTENTIAL OF THE
LIVESTOCK SECTOR
IN MAURITANIA**

Mauritania has significant animal resources. The livestock sector is the main activity in rural areas, providing income directly or indirectly to **80%** of the population and contributing significantly to the country's wealth creation (**21% of GDP**), according to data from the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

The changes in livestock numbers commonly expressed in various documents involve the application, year after year, of an increase ratio. The commonly applied net growth rate is estimated at **1.4%** for cattle, **0.7%** for camel calves, **5.1%** for goats and **5%** for sheep.

National livestock potential is important. The ruminant population is estimated at about **1.7** million cattle, **10** million, **6.7** million goats and **1.4** million camel calves.

For the livestock sector, the objective set by the Mauritanian government is ambitious and aims to double the productivity and incomes of livestock farmers to cover, at least, the country's needs for milk, red meat, and poultry, **with also great potential for exportation in neighboring countries.**





**THE MILK
CHAIN**

Today in Mauritania, about **70%** of the milk consumed is imported mainly from the European Union, Asia and Latin America, in the form of milk powder or UHT, while Mauritanian farmers could supply a large part of the milk consumed by the population. The wilaya (region/state) of the Hodh El Chargui, the only wilaya to have an industrial dairy, the SMPL, has been the subject of a particular attention with regard **to the potential represented** by the presence of this structure.



The State is trying to reduce milk imports, by acting on customs duties, while supporting the local milk sector through the livestock sector and the support of the Nema milk production plant, as well as the long- standing private initiatives in Nouakchott.



Thus, six industrial dairies (Tiviski, Top Lait, Watanya, Assava, Iriji, Billad) located in Nouakchott share the collection and processing of the milk collected in the immediate and remote outskirts of Nouakchott, as well as in Rosso (Trarza) and Boghé (Brakna). Only one dairy is in the South-East in Nema which collects in the Hodh el Chargui region (SMPL). (Photo: Nema milk factory)

A close-up, macro photograph of a piece of red meat, likely beef or pork, showing the intricate texture of muscle fibers and marbling. The color is a rich, warm red with some lighter, fatty areas. The lighting is soft, highlighting the natural grain and texture of the meat.

RED MEAT

Mauritania has a dense network of **120** livestock markets and exports between **100,000** and **150,000** tons of red meat per year to the countries of the region (mainly small ruminants in Senegal,



cattle in Mali and Côte d'Ivoire. Mauritania has an estimated **40%** extra national production in this sector.



THE LEATHER SECTOR

For leather, the potential exists because the **raw material** is abundant, in particular the skins of goats, sheep, cattle and camel calves. However, the dysfunctions between the links in the sector, the low level of processing into artisanal and leather goods products, the low financial capacity of the actors in the sector, the difficulties of access to remunerative markets for modern tanneries, are tangible obstacles.

In **March 2020** only two of the six modern tanneries in Mauritania were still operational: i) Awa International Group (Turkish) and ii) West Africa (Chinese). This shutdown situation is independent of COVID-19, especially since it occurred in **November 2019** for some and more than two years ago for others. The experts in the field recommend developing a domestic sales strategy for the sector to gain more market share.



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**THE INSTITUTIONAL
FRAMEWORK FOR
LIVESTOCK INVESTMENT**

In recent years, the livestock sector has undergone significant changes in legislation governing private investment. A new strategy was adopted for the development of the sector by **2025**, in addition to reforming the tax system and designing a national program for the exploitation of promising animal sectors.

These legal and policy reforms **focus on** improving the **investment climate** and supporting operators in the field to help them achieve their development objectives in the livestock sector and all its branches, based on internationally recognized criteria and standards.

The new administration of the Ministry of Animal Husbandry shows a political will to improve the management of the country's animal resources to achieve the goal of **self-sufficiency** in local products and improve Mauritania's food security. In its policy of livestock development, the State aims to make animal production more complete, more productive, and more diversified, hence the particular emphasis on improving the institutional framework.

“The development of competitive animal sectors and sustainable management of the extensive livestock system” is one of the primary components of Lever 1 of the **SCAPP**: Promotion of strong growth, inclusive and sustainable/ Strategic project to promote more diversified growth in growth sectors.

Strategies specific to the rural sector have been formulated and implemented, including, among others, the Rural Sector Development Strategy (SDSR) by **2025** and the National Strategy for Food Security (SNSA) for Mauritania by **2015** and **2030**. The Agropastoral Law of Orientation (LOAP), drafted and adopted in December **2012**, was supplemented by an Institutional Review of the Agricultural and Pastoral Sector (**RISAP**) as well as a National Plan for the Development of Livestock and Agriculture (**PNDEA**).



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LIVESTOCK SECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE

In recent years, Mauritania has been working to develop infrastructure in the livestock sector; a fair organized at the end of March 2021, in the city of Timbedra (in Hodh Chargui) was organized to structure and introduce more incentives to private investment. In terms of infrastructure, the livestock sector benefits from

Water resources

Natural pools, permanent sources, boreholes, pastoral wells and sumps ensuring a watering and the maintenance of the livestock on site for more or less long periods. Sufficient pasture occurs in the season of good rainfall but sometimes it is located far from urban centers.

Establishment of dairy plants and farms

With regard specifically to the development of the dairy sector, the SCAPP defines the following guidelines: i) creation of intensive dairy farms; ii) opening of plants for the processing of milk and its derivatives; iii) establishment and equipment of collection centers.

UHT milk and derived products plant, with a capacity of 30,000 liters per day, consisting of a central unit in Nema and three collection centers aims to exploit livestock resources in the country's high-potential areas. This infrastructure, which has received funding from EXIM-BANK, an Indian credit line, and a counterpart from Mauritania, deserves to be replicated in the country's other agricultural pastoral wilayas.

Fund for the Promotion of Livestock Development (FPDE)

It aims to promote the emergence of an intensive and competitive livestock sector through the development of carrier animal sectors. The purpose of this fund is to develop livestock farming, to help set up farms, to build modern slaughterhouses, to set up production plants for livestock products, to work on breed improvement, to manage the pastoral corridors and the pastoral water infrastructure, to carry out the studies and to supervise the professional organizations of the Sector.



Animal health

The improvement of animal health services, through the significant increase in vaccination fleets, the introduction of exotic animals with high dairy potential, the promotion of fodder crops, artificial insemination should help intensify production through diversification and improvement of breed: cattle farms, sheepfold, development center, camel breeding. (Photo: animal vaccination park).



Private investment

Facilitating access to financial services, markets and opportunities to add value and by strengthening the capacity of public services in charge of the sector, private stakeholders and socio-professional and community organizations. The Inclusive Sector Development Project (PRODEFI, 2016-2024) financed by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the European Union (EU), the Mauritanian Government and private partners is part of this framework. Its objective is to improve the income, the food and nutritional security of poor rural populations around sectors such as fishing, market gardening, poultry farming, forest products, goat's milk (in the regions of Brakna, Gorgol, Guidimakha, Assaba, Hodh El Gharbi, Hodh El Chargui).

Feed manufacturers

There are about five feed mills, the most important of which are the Grand Moulins de Mauritanie (GMM) and Les Moulins du Sahel (LMS). These feed mills are flour mills producing biscuit flour and baking flour. They use wheat bran (residue) to make simple animal food (Secondary activity). Two feed mills are set up to make only pellet feed, including one in Rosso and one in Hodh El Chargui which has never started production.



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