Revue Africaine d'Environnement et d'Agriculture

http://www.rafea-congo.com

2025 ; 8(4), 212-220

ISSN (Print) : 2708-7743 **eISSN** : 2708-5422 **Dépôt légal** : JL 3.01807-57259

Socio-economic issues of cattle transhumance in households in the Uvira territory, South province in Democratic Republic of Congo

Placide Bwija Mukako[1], Nathan Nyongombe Utshudienyema[2], Freddy Okitayela Onawoma[3], Masumu Mulumbu[4]

[(1)]Higher Institute of Rural Development of Bukavu. P.O. Box 2849 Bukavu (DRC). Email: bwijamukako@gmail.com
[(2)]National Pedagogical University. Faculty of Agronomic and Environmental Sciences. P.O. Box 8815 Kinshasa (DRC)
[(3)]University of Kinshasa. Faculty of Agronomic and Environmental Sciences. P.O. Box 117 Kinshasa (DRC)
[(4)]National Pedagogical University. Faculty of Agronomic and Environmental Sciences. P.O. Box 8815 Kinshasa (DRC)

Reçu le 13 octobre 2025, **accepté** le 23 décembre 2025, **publié en ligne** le 27 décembre 2025

DOI : https://dx.doi.org/10.4314/rafea.v8i4.19

ABSTRACT

Description of the subject. The territory of Uvira experiences cattle transhumance consisting of improved breeds (Sahiwal, Brown Swiss, Jersey, and Friesian) that produce a lot of milk per day, as well as local breeds (Ndama and Ankole) with low milk production. During the transhumance, transhumant herders coming from neighboring countries such as Burundi and Rwanda organize the trade of cattle and milk. This organized sale allows local farmers to buy improved male breeders used for crossbreeding with local breed cows.
Objective. This study aims to identify and analyze the socio-economic challenges of cattle transhumance among farming households in Uvira, Democratic Republic of Congo.
Methods. The survey was conducted using both qualitative and quantitative approaches following the 12-month method. Survey interview techniques and visits to cattle herds, cattle markets, milk, and meat were carried out in order to access reliable information for the study. Both closed and open-ended questions were posed to 50 survey units.
Results. Several economic activities created through migratory cattle farming are micro-enterprises run by farming households. They ensure self-employment for young people and women through entrepreneurial activities such as opening milk processing and marketing units (Mashanza), agro-pastoral cooperatives, meat butcheries, the processing of hides into nkulo (hide trimmings), and the training of cattle used in bovine traction and plowing of fields. Among these micro-enterprises, cattle transhumance appears to be the hub of economic activities. This is a locally scaled entrepreneurial cattle migration.
Conclusion. In the Uvira region, cattle transhumance carries socio-economic significance. It serves as a catalyst for employment for young people and women, providing them with substantial income that contributes to improving their socio-economic conditions. Therefore, it remains a flexible strategy for economic growth both at the territorial level and at the provincial and national levels.

Keywords: Socio-economic issues, cattle transhumance, households, Uvira/DRC

RESUME

Enjeux socio-économiques de la transhumance bovine dans les ménages agricoles en territoire d'Uvira, province du Sud Kivu en République Démocratique du Congo
Description du sujet. Le territoire d'Uvira connaît une transhumance bovine composée de races améliorées (Sahiwal, Brown Swiss, Jersey et Frisonne) qui produisent beaucoup de lait par jour, ainsi que de races locales (Ndama et Ankole) à faible production laitière. Pendant la transhumance, les éleveurs transhumants venant de pays voisins tels que le Burundi et le Rwanda organisent le commerce de bétail et de lait. Cette vente organisée permet

aux éleveurs autochtones d’acheter des reproducteurs mâles améliorés utilisés pour le croisement avec les vaches de race locale.
Objectif. Cette étude vise à identifier et analyser les enjeux socio-économiques de la transhumance bovine dans les ménages agricoles dans le territoire d’Uvira, en République démocratique du Congo.
Méthodes. L'enquête a été réalisée en utilisant à la fois des approches qualitatives et quantitatives suivant la méthode de 12 derniers mois. Des techniques d'entrevues de sondage et des visites des cheptels bovins, des marchés de bétail, de lait et de viande ont été effectuées afin d'obtenir des informations fiables pour l'étude. Des questions à la fois fermées et ouvertes ont été posées à 50 unités d'enquête. La méthode guidée par les enquêtés dite méthode en « boule de neige » nous a permis d’atteindre certains enquêtés qui étaient difficile à identifier pour le complément d’informations.
Résultats. Plusieurs activités économiques créées grâce à la production bovine en transhumance sont des micro-entreprises de ménages agricoles. Elles garantissent l'auto-emploi pour les jeunes et les femmes à travers des activités entrepreneuriales telles que l’ouverture des unités de transformation et de commercialisation du lait (Mashanza), de coopératives agro-pastorales, de boucheries de viande, la transformation des peaux en nkulo (épluchures des peaux) et de dressage des bovins utilisés dans la traction bovine et de labour des champs. De ces micro-entreprises, la transhumance bovine parait le vivier des activités économiques. C’est une transhumance bovine entrepreneuriale de dimension locale.
Conclusion. Dans le territoire d'Uvira, la transhumance bovine revêt une importance socio-économique. Elle constitue un catalyseur d'emploi pour les jeunes et les femmes, leur offrant des revenus considérables qui contribuent à améliorer leurs conditions socio-économiques. Par conséquent, elle demeure une stratégie flexible de croissance économique tant au niveau territorial qu'aux niveaux provincial et national.

Mots-clés : Enjeux socio-économiques, transhumance bovine, ménages agricoles, Uvira/RDC

1. INTRODUCTION

The territory of Uvira has been shaken for about twenty years by violence and conflicts (ethnic and land-related) that destabilize agricultural production activities. In this context, transhumant cattle herds are victims of theft, looting, and massacres, posing a risk of slowing down the mobility of transhumant cattle; while 84 % of the populations are poor in South Kivu, in the Democratic Republic of Congo (Ministère du Plan, 2007). These heinous acts lead to hostilities, reprisals, and exacerbate poverty in the communities of the territory.

In Africa, the low productivity in livestock farming means that African herds produce less than 20 % of the volume they could produce in meat and milk if improvements were made at the farm and technical levels (Pugliese and Coulomb, 1981). In Uvira, cattle farming is a sector neglected by both the national and provincial governments and does not benefit from investments like the political sector does; meanwhile, the population lives on a low daily income and suffers from food insufficiency. Only the cattle species is subject to transhumance and is practically the only species monitored in herds according to its socio-economic value. Being devoted to the breeding of local cattle breeds (Ndama and Ankole), the herds have remained low in bovine production and generate low income due to the lack of innovative techniques for cattle farming development, while the living conditions of agricultural households in South Kivu are very poor, with poverty affecting more than 8 out of 10 households and an urban unemployment rate higher than the national average (UNDP, 2009).

Indeed, in many regions of the world, livestock farming is indispensable for combating poverty and famine (Ellies and Hocquette, 2018). The low production of local cattle breeds has not met socio-economic needs nor improved the living conditions of farming households of Uvira. In the market, the number of cattle available for sale was insufficient compared to the demand for meat by families, resulting in scarcity and high prices of meat and milk. The consumption rate of meat and milk was low compared to the current period of movement of improved cattle breeds (Friesian, Brown Swiss, Sahiwal, and Jersey) from border areas of Burundi and Rwanda towards the Uvira territory in eastern DRC.

Indeed, with the mobility of cattle herds, several villages practice mixed farming in terms of cattle production (milk and meat), and especially the availability of improved cattle breeds long sought after by indigenous breeders in the Uvira area. Hence the question: what would be the socio-economic stakes of cattle transhumance for farming households in the Uvira area? The job creation, development of local micro-enterprises, and providing income to young people and women would be the socio-economic stakes of cattle transhumance for farming households. This study aims to identify and analyze the socio-economic challenges of cattle transhumance among farming households in Uvira, Democratic Republic of Congo.

2. MATERIAL ET METHODS

2.1. Study site

The territory of Uvira is an area in the eastern DRC. It has approximately 154,846 TLU (1 tropical livestock unit equals 250 kg of live weight) consisting of cattle of local breeds (Ankole and Ndama). Their primary products are meat and milk, and the secondary products are labor (animal traction) and organic fertilizer. This livestock farming generates about two-thirds of the income through the trade of cattle, milk, meat, and hides.

2.2. Material

During the survey, the interview guide tool was used in individual exchanges and focus groups. The collected data was analyzed, and the results were presented in tables and charts highlighting the socio-economic issues of cattle transhumance in farming households.

2.3. Methods

Data collection was carried out using qualitative and quantitative surveys following the past 12 month's method through direct survey interviews and observational visits. This method provides the rate for the year preceding the survey (Assogba *et al*., 2017). The approach involved asking open and closed questions to the 50 survey units at their homes, at various cattle, milk, and meat markets. Additionally, the non-probabilistic method, guided by the respondents, known as the 'snowball' or 'Respondent-Driven Sampling' (RDS) method, allowed us to reach owners of transhumant cattle herds and heads of agricultural households. This method is widely used for sampling hard-to-reach human populations and in areas where statistical records are not available (Wilhelm, 2014).

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Knowledge of the main activities that are sources of income for farming households

The results in figure 1 below concern the main activities that are sources of income for farming households in the Uvira area.

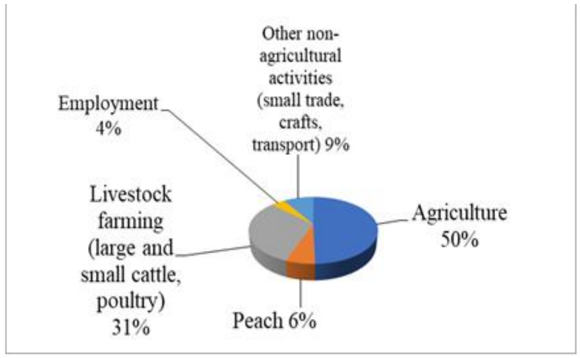

Figure1. Sources of income activities for agricultural households in Uvira

The majority of the population in the Uvira territory practice family farming (50 %) as their main activity on which their survival depends. The production from this activity does not reduce household poverty; it is intended for household self-consumption. Indeed, livestock farming (31 %) is the second main source of income for agro-pastoralists in the territory. This activity constitutes a significant portion of monetary income for livestock farmers through the sale of cattle, goats, pigs, chickens, and ducks. Among these types of livestock, cattle farming is an essential enterprise and a source of monetary income for agro-pastoralists in Uvira.

Due to its socio-economic importance, it is a thriving, preferred, flexible activity that guarantees the economy in terms of savings for agro-pastoralists and quickly contributes to the socio-economic needs of farming households through the sale of cattle, milk, and meat. However, fishing (6 %) is practiced in Lake Tanganyika, in the Ruzizi River, and in ponds (Katobwe, Nyangara, Kindava, and Ruziya) by a minority of the population. In general, the socio-economic conditions of many farming households depend on non-agricultural activities (small trade, craftsmanship, transport, carpentry, tailoring, hair salons, etc.) (9 %) and a few small salaried jobs (4 %) that provide supplementary daily income.

3.2. Socio-economic issues of cattle transhumance in agricultural households in the Uvira territory

The results in figure 2 below relate to the socio-economic issues of cattle transhumance in the Uvira territory.

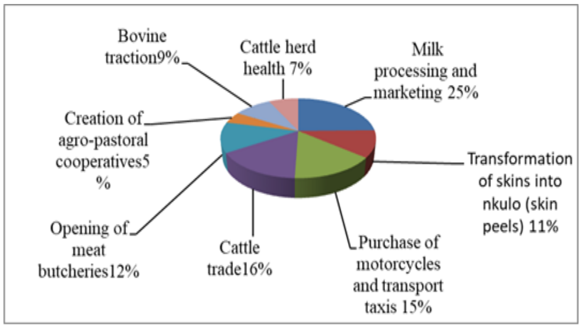

Figure2. Socio-economic stakes of cattle transhumance in Uvira

It emerges from figure 2 that the issues of cattle transhumance are of a social and economic nature. Through cattle transhumance, numerous economic activities are created through various cattle productions. These are micro-enterprises that provide self-employment for young people and women. These micro-enterprises include the establishment of agro-pastoral cooperatives (5 %) allowing the packaging, processing, and marketing of cattle products (milk and meat), and cattle trading (16 %) becoming employment for young people and men, providing incomes that enable transhumants to purchase land, settle down, establish themselves as locals, and accumulate wealth in the villages. With the high milk production from improved transhumant breeds and crossbreeds over a distance of 85 km (Uvira – Kamanyola), milk is sold by young people and women from each center and village located along RN5.

Several units for processing and marketing curdled milk (Mashanza) (25 %) have been opened, as well as butcheries for meat (Kachoma) (25 %), businesses for trading and processing hides into nkulo (hide trimmings) (11 %), and the initiative of training oxen used for plowing (draft farming) and ox traction (9 %) has also emerged. The use of trained oxen attached to moldboard plows significantly relieves farmers from the strenuous work in the fields and allows them to increase the number of hectares to be plowed. In concrete terms, the income generated from these activities creates wealth and addresses the issue of poverty in farming households. Despite these indicators, it appears that through cattle and milk trading, young people purchase motorcycles and taxis (15 %) used for transporting people, goods, and milk from the kraal to the milk markets. This transport generates daily income allocated to meeting the socio-economic needs of farming households. The more livestock systems intensify and integrate into a commercial logic, the higher their potential consumption of inputs (Thome *et al*., 1995). These results reveal that this is an entrepreneurial cattle transhumance capable of boosting the socio-economic development of farming households. Expenditure on the health of cattle and humans seems to have a significant effect on the treatment and protection of cattle herds against diseases (7 %).

In the event of a disease in the herds, farmers sell cattle heads or milk in order to buy appropriate inputs and veterinary products for the treatment of sick cattle. Indeed, these expenses have significant economic repercussions on the health status of the cattle, as well as on human health. These are monetary and human resources used by herd owners to preserve the health of the cattle and/or treat sick animals.

3.3. Socio-economic conditions of agricultural households with and without transhumance

The results in table 1 below concern the socio-economic conditions of agricultural households with and without cattle transhumance.

Table1. Socio-economic conditions of agricultural households with and without cattle transhumance

Socio-economic parameters	**Assessment of the socio-economic conditions of agricultural households**	
	Without cattle migration	**With cattle migration**
Schooling of children	0 or only 1 child enrolled in school	2 to 3 or more school-aged children
Housing improvement	6 to 8 houses per year built with tree sticks and thatched with straw	3 to 4 houses per year built with baked bricks and 4 to 6 houses per year improved with tin roofs
Buying children's clothes	0 or 2 clothes purchased per child	3 to 5 clothes purchased per child
Access to medical healthcare	0 or 1 patient treated with difficulty or death due to lack of treatment	4 to 5 children and parents cared for easily
Purchase of meals	1 meal/day (or meal skipping)	2 to 3 meals/day

Appearance of new villages	Camps of internal seasonal herders established and destroyed during the return of transhumance	6 to 9 camps set up and transformed into villages (no return of non-native transhumant herders)
Ethnic conflicts	Cattle thefts	Many acts of violence, highway robbery, rape of women, looting, and cattle theft
Social integration	Peaceful coexistence	Collaboration between nomadic herders and meat, milk sellers, and local cattle traders
Travel of family members	Impossible due to lack of money for transportation payment	Made with the revenue

The period without cattle transhumance was characterized by low cattle production of local breeds. It was a period marked by the socio-economic precariousness of agro-pastoralists. They lived in poor dwellings (constructed from tree sticks or from bricks of mud and wattle and daub with thatch). These dwellings exposed the agro-pastoralists to bad weather, predators, diseases, and harmful insects, which are ecological factors directly affecting human health. Indeed, 85 % of young people and women were unemployed and unable to send their children to school (0 or 1 child in school out of 4 children per household, while others accompanied their parents to the fields), lacked access to healthcare or experienced deaths due to illness, had poorly dressed children and parents, and especially suffered from insufficient meals or none at all, resulting in malnutrition among children aged 0 to 5 and women (both breastfeeding and pregnant). A household with more than 5 members received 1 meal per day or none at all.

The period of cattle transhumance is a time for improving the socio-economic conditions of farming households. Economic activities related to transhumance provide daily income that allows agro-pastoralists to improve their homes (22 %). On average, 3 to 4 houses are built, and more than 4 to 6 houses per year have their thatched roofs upgraded with galvanized sheets. Additionally, this income contributes to the payment of school fees and the purchase of school supplies for 2 to 3 children, whereas before the AFDL war from 1997 to 1998, the rate of unschooled children was higher than that of children who were attending school (table 1). With cattle transhumance, young people and women are involved either in the cattle trade, milk sales, meat sales, and/or cattle hide trade. Currently, members of agricultural households organize 2 meals per day (morning and evening), and other meals are consumed without regularity. Women buy clothes and properly dress their children and husbands from the daily and/or monthly income earned from the sale of livestock products. Nevertheless, new villages are emerging from the settlements of transhumant herders and rural exodus, which is leading to population growth in safe sites. Furthermore, the trade of milk and cattle allows for social integration and collaboration among the inhabitants of the border villages (Ndunda, Kimuka, Rusabagi, Kimuka, Nyango, Nyamoma, and those from Burundi and Rwanda), which leads to the self-identification of landowners and ethnic conflicts.

3.4. Socio-economic contribution of transhumant cattle trade

The results in table 2 below concern the selling prices of cattle during periods without and with cattle transhumance in the Uvira farming sites.

Table 2. Selling prices (values) of cattle during periods without and with transhumance at the markets of the Ruzizi Plain

Sale price (value) of cattle					
Category	Period without transhumance	Period of transhumance	Category	Period without transhumance	Period of transhumance
Bouvillons years old	$420	$360	Culled cow	$450	$400
Culled cow	$480	$420	Heifer	$580	$430
Little bull	$450	$370	Beef	$450	$370
Reform bulls	$330	$300	Cows	$500	$420

Source: Survey data collected in the markets of Kashatu, Bijojo, Sange, Rubanga, Runingu, Lemera, Ndunda, April – August 2024.

In the villages (both transit and host villages), transhumant herders organize markets to sell cattle intended for slaughter and breeding. Prices vary depending on the market, the age of the cattle, and especially the season. During the non-transhumance period, cattle are scarce in the markets, and those that are sold are expensive. Upon the arrival of transhumants, the selling price of cattle is lower in the various markets organized in the villages (see Table 2). On average, a transhumant can sell 35 to 40 cattle per year (approximately 3 to 5 % per year).

Revenue from cattle sales contributes to the wealth and savings of farmers who own cattle herds and supports the economy of local cattle buyers and sellers. However, some male breeding stock purchased from transhumant herders are placed in the herds of indigenous farmers for breeding purposes, while other cattle are trained for draft work and field plowing. Cows, heifers, and young bulls are more expensive in the markets of the Ruzizi Plain (markets of Runingu, Rubanga, Sange, Luvungi, Kawizi) than those in the mid and high plateaus. As for cows, young bulls, and heifers, they are purchased for their role in reproduction and herd renewal.

At the beginning of the transhumance (June, July), very few cattle are sold, due to the fact that herders get rid of cattle showing signs of inability to withstand the long journey (especially during the major transhumance). In addition, cattle are expensive during the end-of-year festive periods, the harvest of food crops, and religious ceremonies.

3.5. Socio-economic contribution of milk in farming households

The results in table 3 below concern the socio-economic contribution of milk in farming households.

Table 3. On the quality and quantity of milk sold on the market

Milk quality and selling prices	**Revenue from milk sales**	
	Improved breed cow (7 to 10 liters/day)	**Local breed cow (1 to 1.5 l/day)**
Liquid milk (2500 CDF/liter)	7 to 10 liters x 2500 CDF = 17,500 to 25,000 CDF (at the kraal)	1 to 1.5 liters/day x 6000 CDF = 6000 to 9000 CDF. Therefore, the income is 3500 to 5250 fc
Curdled milk (4500 CDF/litre)	7 to 10 liters x 4500 CDF = 31,500 to 45,000 CDF. Therefore, the income is 14,000 to 20,000 CDF	1 to 1.5 liters/day x 4500 CDF = 4500 to 6750 CDF. Therefore, the income is 2000 to 3000 CDF
Curdled milk (6000 CDF/liter)	7 to 10 kg x 6000 CDF = 42,000 to 60,000 CDF. Therefore, the income is 24,500 to 35,000 CDF.	1 to 1.5 liters/day x 6000 CDF= 6000 to 9000 CDF. Therefore, the income is 3500 to 5250 CDF

Generally, three types of milk are sold in sufficient quantities and provide significant daily income to breeders, women, and young people in various villages of Uvira. Liquid and coagulated milk are sold in 5-liter cans or 1-liter plastic bottles, and curdled milk is sold in 1 kg measures. In terms of sales, milk packaging and processing dictate a high market price. For self-consumption, a livestock owner keeps an average of 4 to 6 liters of milk per day for their household and per capita consumption ranges from approximately 12 to 14 liters per year. However, the sale of fresh milk at the kraal generates significant income. One liter of fresh milk is sold for 2,500 CDF. This price is considered substantial by the transhumant herder, who produces sufficient quantities per day from an improved cow compared to a local breed cow. According to estimates, the transhumant herder earns between 17,500 and 25,000 CDF (at the kraal) at minimum from a cow that produces 7 to 10 liters of fresh milk per day, while a herd may have more than 25 to 30 lactating cows.

About 70 to 80 % of the milk is usually intended for sale. In various markets, curdled milk is sold at 4,500 CDF per liter during the rainy season. This amount varies depending on the sales location (either 4,500 CDF or 5,000 CDF). During the dry season, the price of milk increases both at the kraal and in the market. This is a period of forage shortage. At the points of sale, the price of curdled milk is higher than that of liquid milk. For 7 to 10 liters x 4500 CDF = 31,500 to 45,000 CDF/day. This income is higher and cannot be compared to that of the local cow. Similarly, curdled milk is sold at 6,000 CDF/kg. This price varies according to the season and demand. Daily income estimates are 7 to 10 kg x 6,000 CDF = 42,000 to 60,000 CDF. This is significant income that women and young people benefit from in the curdled milk sales activity. According to Kossoumna *et al.* (2008).

The absence of milk production in the family, due to the loss of livestock or the departure of the entire herd for transhumance, is very difficult for women to endure. While the milk production of a local cow ranges from 1 to 1.5 liters per day, the income generated cannot meet the socio-economic needs of farming households. Hence the need to introduce improved sires into local cattle herds to enhance milk production and increase the income of indigenous farmers and agricultural households. Given the importance of milk selling activities, sellers are organized into associations and milk sales cooperatives and establish modern channels such as cheese and yogurt production units, which will allow them to promote a milk value chain within the Uvira territory.

3.6. Socio-economic contribution of beef in agricultural households

Quantity of meat consumed per household/week

The socio-economic contribution of beef comes from its consumption and sale. The data in Figure 3 below pertains to the quantity of meat consumed per agricultural household.

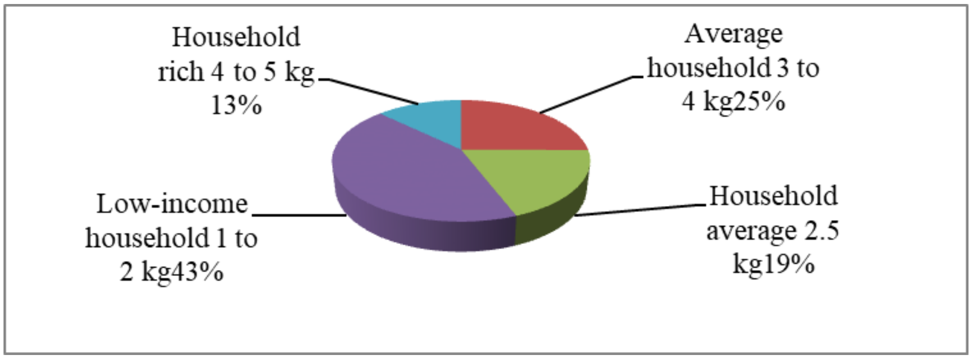

Figure 3. Quantity of meat consumed per agricultural household per week

The contribution of beef is observed on three specific levels: economic, social, and nutritional. Meat has economic value; it is a marketable product that provides monetary income to slaughterhouse butchers and retail butchers in local markets. Overall, meat, like milk, is a staple food made regular through cattle transhumance in agricultural households. In other words, an agricultural household that does not buy and consume meat does not have security and assurance of life. With its price on the markets, due to its availability and accessibility to most farming households, the majority of farming households regularly consume beef, which provides animal protein to the human body. Notably, meat and its derivatives hold a prominent place in our diet both for nutritional and socio-cultural reasons (Clinquart *et al.*, 1999).

The weekly level of meat consumption depends on the categories of farming households (fig 3). The survey results indicate that an average household consumes 3 to 4 kg of meat per week (i.e., 144 to 192 kg/year). This is still below the minimum of 50 kg of meat per person per year recommended by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (United Nations Development Programme, 2009). However, a low-average household consumes 2.5 kg per week (i.e., 120 kg/year), a low-income household consumes 1 to 2 kg or nothing per week (i.e., 48 to 96 kg/year), and a wealthy household consumes 4 to 5 kg per week (i.e., 192 to 240 kg/year). This consumption reflects the regular slaughter of cattle, which allows even poor farming households to purchase meat for their diet despite the quantity being insufficient compared to the health standard. It should be noted that the average frequency (number of meals per week) of beef consumption ranges from 2 to 3 days per week.

The important point is to allow for a consumption of more than 33 kg of beef per person per year (Labonne *et al.*, 2007). In 2000, individual beef consumption in urban areas was around 6.5 to 7.5 kg per person per year, whereas it was between 17 and 23 kg per person per year in 1987 (Gesep, 2002). Based on our estimates, 98.5 % of the surveyed farming households consume beef, while 1.5 % do not consume it due to health-related reasons. Generally, per capita consumption of meat and milk is approximately 15 kg and 20-22 liters per year, respectively.

Estimation of Income from Meat Sales

The results in table 4 below concern the estimation of monthly and annual income from the sale of beef.

Table 4. Estimation of Monthly and Annual Income from Beef Sales

Meat production in relation to the live weight of cattle	Meat selling price for $2/kg	Annual sales income of 7 cattle per year per herd (at minimum)

	Monthly income (1 kg of meat at $2)	Annual income (meat from 7 slaughtered cattle)
Meat (25 % of the 520 kg of waste = 130, hence 520 kg - 130 = 390 kg)	390 kg x $2 = $780	$780 x 7 cattle = $5,460
Meat (25 % of the 740 kg of waste = 185, hence 740 kg - 185 = 555 kg)	555 kg x $2 = $1110	1110 $ x 7 cattle = 7770 $

The results in table 4 show that the sale of beef allows agro-pastoralists to carry out more economic exchanges in the Uvira territory. The Ruzizi Plain sees the slaughter of 35 to 40 cattle per day at the market, while the mid-plateaus see the slaughter of 8 to 15 cattle per day at the market, and the high plateaus range from 12 to 16 cattle per day at the market. Cattle are slaughtered in unregulated slaughterhouses where butchers handle the processing under the control and supervision of a veterinarian to certify the product. Meat is transported by bicycles and on the heads of young men. These slaughters make meat available in various markets organized in villages, reduce meat prices, and provide access to meat purchases for different categories of agricultural households. The market, characterized among other things by the law of supply and demand, remains the main factor influencing the sale price at the farm gate (Malterre and Jones, 1992).

It allows retail sellers to earn a daily monetary income. According to Dumont *et al.* (1991), this income varies depending on the production system and the degree of finishing, and therefore on the weight and quality of the carcass. A well-finished beef cow has a high commercial value; its fattening is even more justified than in dairy production (Malterre *et al.*, 1989). The price of beef per kilogram ranges from $2 to $2.50 depending on the villages and $3 to $4 in the city of Uvira. These prices decrease when cattle are purchased at lower prices in the market and increase when there is a scarcity of cattle on the market, especially during the dry season. However, retail butchers sell meat from all categories of cattle slaughtered over 24 months old. In fact, young people and women form associations with the goal of buying cattle, slaughtering them, and selling the meat. Some open butcher shops and charcuteries, while others export meat to border entities in the Uvira territory and cities in South Kivu. This livestock trade is a key factor enabling the establishment of micro-enterprises in communities where the population lives in poverty. It is an economic lever and a source of employment in the Uvira territory.

4. CONCLUSION

In the territory of Uvira, cattle transhumance carries socio-economic stakes. It remains the only source of economic activities that freely contribute to the growth of the economy and the improvement of the socio-economic conditions of farming households.

Overall, the income generated from these activities allows for children's schooling, access to medical care for children and women, the purchase of food, improvement of housing, purchase of motorcycles and taxis for transporting people and harvested food products, and ensures the socio-economic well-being of farming households. This is a locally scaled entrepreneurial cattle migration.

That being said, the intensification of cattle farming and the introduction of modern technologies for enhancing cattle products are forward-looking policies for a stable and productive cattle economy in the Uvira region.

Reference

Assogba B.G.C., Assani S.A., Alkoiret I.T. & Youssao A.K.I., 2017. *Demographic parameters of Lagune cattle herds in the Oueme Valley in Southern Benin*. *International Research Journal of Natural and Applied Sciences*, 4, 150–169.

Clinquart A., Demeyer D.J. & Castelels M., 1999. *Meat quality: from muscle to meat*. in: *Clinquart A., Fabry J., Casteels M.; Belgian Association for Meat Science and Technology (eds), Meat?* Presses of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Liège, pp. 75-96.

Dumont R., Roux M., Agabriel J., Touraille C., Bonnemaire J., Malterre C. & Robelin J., 1991. *Fattening of cull Charolais cows. Factors affecting zootechnical performance, carcass tissue composition, and meat organoleptic quality*. *INRA Prod. Anim*., 4, 271-286.

Ellies-Oury M-J. & Hocquette J-F., 2018. *The beef supply chain: production, processing, valorization, and consumption*. Ed. Lavoisier Paris, 35 p.

GESEP, 2002. *Study on meat consumption in Garoua. Garoua, Cameroon, Secure Management of Pastoral Areas Project, Minépia / FSD (ongoing)*, p. 8

Labonne M., Breon F. M. & chevallier F., 2007. *Injection height of biomass burning aerosols as seen from a spaceborne lidar. Geophysical research letters*, 34(11), 11806. 10.1029/2007 GL029311.hal-02946364, p 6

Pugliese P.L. & Coulomb J., 1981. *Improving the productivity of African cattle herds*. In: *Le courrier Afrique*, 62 p.

UNDP, 2009. *Household living conditions, anti-poverty unit*, 7 p.

Thome O., Bonis Charancle J.M., Mester C. & Correze A., 1995. *Animal* health *privatization processes. Case summaries (Burkina Faso, Guinea, Niger, and Central African Republic)*. Paris: Ministry of Cooperation, 90 p.

Wilhelm M.,2014. *Snowball sampling, the respondent-driven sampling method*. Federal Statistical Office (FSO), Swiss Confederation, 60 p.