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## Dairy production in Tanzania

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# Dairy production in Tanzania

90% of milk in Tanzania is produced by cattle. The majority of this is produced in low input, low yielding systems and consumed by the producer's household.



## Industry snapshot:

- Tanzania has the 4<sup>th</sup> largest cattle herd in Africa – following Ethiopia, Sudan & Chad
- 31 million cattle - kept for meat, milk, savings and draught power
- Cattle population is concentrated in the lakes area, central Tanzania and the southern highlands.
- 99% of cattle are indigenous breeds. Improved dairy cattle are found primarily in the northern and southern highlands.
- Gross production value of cow milk in 2016 was US \$196 million (85% total livestock value and 2% total agricultural value)

## Tanzania cattle population

Most cattle in Tanzania are indigenous zebu breeds, which are used for meat, savings and draught power as well as milk production.

**Tanzania cattle population by breed** (*Ministry of Agriculture 2018*)

Cattle breed	Number (heads)	% of total
Indigenous	30,062,560	98.7
Improved dairy	239,227	0.8
Improved beef	169,820	0.6

## Types of dairy production systems

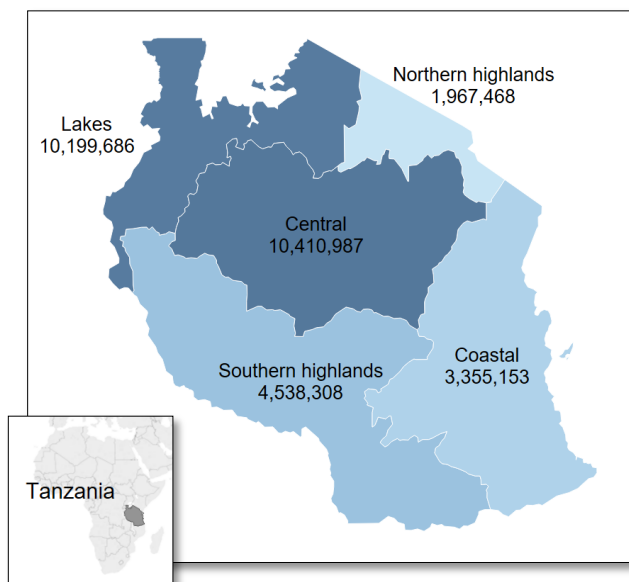
### Traditional meat-milk

- Large herds of local cattle in pastoral & agro-pastoral areas. Grazing of natural pastures, communal land and crop residues.
- Small amount of milk produced by large numbers of dual-purpose cattle.
- Milk is consumed by the household or sold through informal markets.
- Highly seasonal production.

### Improved family & specialised dairy

- Ranges from smallholders with 2-3 cows to large, commercial-scale farms.
- Concentrated in highland and coastal areas.
- Intensive production systems based on cut and carry cultivated forage with minimal grazing. Feed is from crop residues, cultivated fodder and communal land.
- More likely to include improved and crossbred cattle breeds.
- Most milk is sold into formal value chains.

**Cattle population (number of heads) by agricultural zone**  
(*Ministry of Agriculture 2018*)



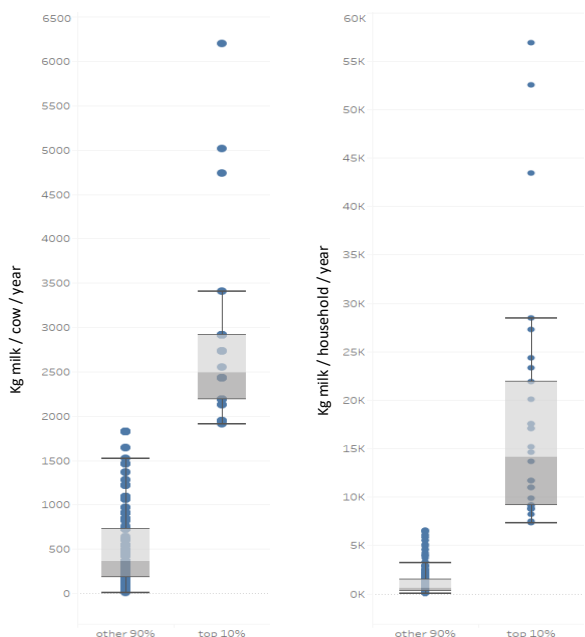
## Value chains & market systems

- 97% of milk in Tanzania is consumed by the producer's household or marketed locally through informal value chains, with no processing.
- Formal value chains supply processed milk and dairy products to consumers in urban and peri-urban markets.
- Dairy processing and collection centres are concentrated in the lake, northern coastal and highland regions.

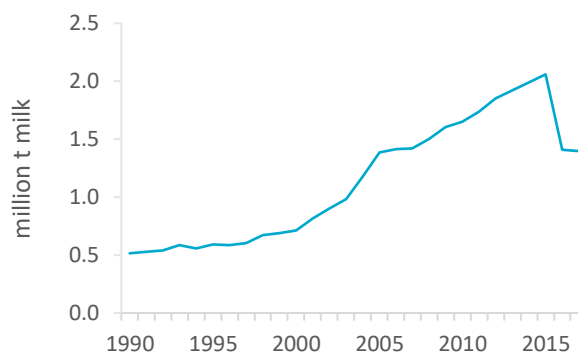
## Milk yields

- Average national milk yields are around 2000 kg/cow/year.
- There are large variations in milk yields between farms and production systems. Yields are influenced by a range of factors including breed, nutrition, animal health and animal management.

### Milk yields of the top 10% of cows (left) and households (right) compared to the other 90% (LSMS survey 2014-15)



### National milk production from cattle (FAOstat)



## Issues affecting milk production

### Farm scale

- Seasonal feed shortages (natural grasses, crop residues)
- Decreased land area available for grazing
- Cost and variable quality of purchased concentrate feeds
- Genetic potential of cattle breeds currently used
- Inappropriate breeds for local conditions
- Cost and access to artificial insemination services
- Diseases that cause mortality or affect reproduction

### Dairy value chains, markets & processing

- Current milk processors operate below their capacity
- Seasonality of milk production makes it hard for producers to engage in formal value chains

### References:

Ministry of Agriculture (2018) 2016/17 Annual Agriculture Sample Survey Crop & Livestock Report, Zanzibar  
 FAOstat: [www.fao.org/faostat](http://www.fao.org/faostat)  
 LSMS Survey: <https://microdata.worldbank.org/index.php/catalog/2862>

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