



Pastoral and agropastoral household economy in the region of Diffa (Niger): between poverty and vulnerability

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1. ABSTRACT

Livestock is the main economic activity in the Region of Diffa. It employs 95% of communities and contributes on an annual basis to 55% of the gross domestic product of the Region. This article analyzes the economics of pastoral and agropastoral households in the region of Diffa taking into account environmental contingencies. A survey involving 300 households (150 households with sedentary livestock and 150 households with mobile livestock) was conducted based on a pre-established agro-ecological zoning (pastoral bowls zone, Komadugu zone and Lake Chad zone). Analysis of annual monetary income of households shows that 81% of the interviewed were poor and that 47% of the poor were extremely poor. This income is largely extent dominated by the agricultural sector with a significant contribution of livestock. The study also highlights the existence of a highly significant positive correlation between monetary income and herd size in sedentary breeder's households in the area of pastoral bowls and for those with mobile livestock all areas combined. By contrast, no correlation for sedentary households in the Komadugou and Lake Chad zones. Furthermore, analysis of the relationship between livestock endowment and household size reveals the extreme vulnerability of pastoralist households. About 74% of the herds of sedentary households in the pastoral bowls zone are below the pastoral viability threshold. The same applies to mobile livestock with zonal disparities.
