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# **Sustainable Agricultural Livelihood Restoration, Rehabilitation and Resilience in Kenya**

## **Guidelines on Sustainable Ruminant Feeds and Nutrition Security for Kenya**

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### **CHAPTER 2 DRIVERS OF FEED AND NUTRITION INSECURITY**

#### **2.2 Drought**

In Kenya, drought has been increasing in frequency and severity over time due to the effects of climate change and variability. This has led to land degradation resulting in limited establishment of pastures, making livestock feed availability a major challenge in livestock producing regions. The current drought has led to lowered marketability of livestock due to loss of body condition and in some cases increased livestock mortalities have been observed (Appendix 3). This has resulted in loss of livelihoods and household food and nutrition insecurity. Kenya has reported 2.6 million livestock deaths, valued at KES 37.7 billion in 2022. Due to the impact of previous cumulative failed rainy seasons the livestock mortalities have averaged 20% of all the livestock population. The mortalities have been attributed to severe vegetation loss due to the extended dry spells coupled with increased trekking distances to water points. The resulting loss of livestock genetic diversity coupled with dilution or loss of adapted genes pose real threat to genetic pool of the national livestock population.