

2.1 Summary of Smallholder Dairy Industry in Kenya

In 1996, an estimated 3,152 million kg of milk were produced in Kenya (Peeler and Ormore, 1996). Milk production involves 9.8 million animals of which 7.7% are dairy breeds (principally Friesian and Ayrshire), and 10.3% are zebu x dairy crosses. Dairy breeds consume 11.8% of the forage used to support milk production while dairy x zebu crossbreeds consume 14.7%. The remainder of the dairy population is comprised of a variety of zebu breeds, e.g. East African zebu, sahiwal, boran, etc.

Approximately, 25.9% of milk is produced from purebred dairy breeds while an additional 16.7% is produced by dairy x zebu crossbreeds. The remainder, or 57.4%, of the milk produced in Kenya is produced by zebu breeds. Most of the milk produced for public consumption originates in the Central, Coast, Eastern, Nyanza, Rift Valley, and Western provinces of Kenya (see Figure 2.1-1, provincial map). A very small amount occurs in the periphery of some towns in the North-Eastern province, characteristic of arid and semi-arid rangelands of northern Kenya. Tables 2.1.1, 2.1.2, and 2.1.3 provide a provincial view of herd inventories by breedtype, annual milk yields by breedtype, and numbers of lactating cows producing milk each year, respectively.

Table 2.1.1 Inventory of cattle used in small holder dairy production in Kenya.

Province	Dairy	Dairy x Zebu	Zebu	Total
Central	396,245	412,755	77,530	886,530
Coast	20,104	25,296	1,073,930	119,330
Eastern	117,364	155,576	1,152,330	1,425,270
Nyanza	0	149,110	2,089,200	2,238,310
Rift Valley	211,350	253,620	4,396,130	4,818,890
Western	10,038	15,056	301,416	326,510

Table 2.1.2. Estimated total annual milk yield (kg) by region and breedtype based on the assignment of dairy, dairy x zebu, and zebu breedtypes to production systems by region in DFID survey (Peeler and Omore, 1997). Total milk yields can be contrasted to estimates provided in the DFID national survey.

Province	Dairy	Dairy x Zebu	Zebu	Total	DFID Total
Central	450,933,170	226,980,874	22,431,459	700,345,503	699,466,161
Coast	13,066,607	7,944,496	132,789,286	153,800,390	99,515,675
Eastern	95,245,056	61,009,456	178,879,555	325,074,727	335,134,067
Nyanza	0	47,677,980	264,435,537	229,550,412	312,113,517
Rift Valley	232,225,969	134,660,538	1,228,073,143	1,571,423,260	1,594,959,651
Western	11,846,025	8,586,422	90,437,452	125,673,062	110,869,899

Table 2.1.3 Estimated number of lactating cows in each province by breedtype

Province	Dairy	Dairy x Zebu	Zebu
Central	155,978	162,477	30,519
Coast	4,520	5,687	241,435
Eastern	32,945	43,672	323,471
Nyanza	0	34,129	478,184
Rift Valley	80,327	96,393	1,670,848
Western	4,098	6,146	123,044

The number of dairy animals per household varies considerably but is often less than two on average. Women are typically the principle managers of the smaller dairy enterprises. Milk is both consumed in the household where it is produced and sold either directly or through marketing cooperatives. Larger enterprises are emerging in the peri-urban areas. The dairy enterprise is one of the few agricultural systems that produces a consistent cash flow over most of the year.

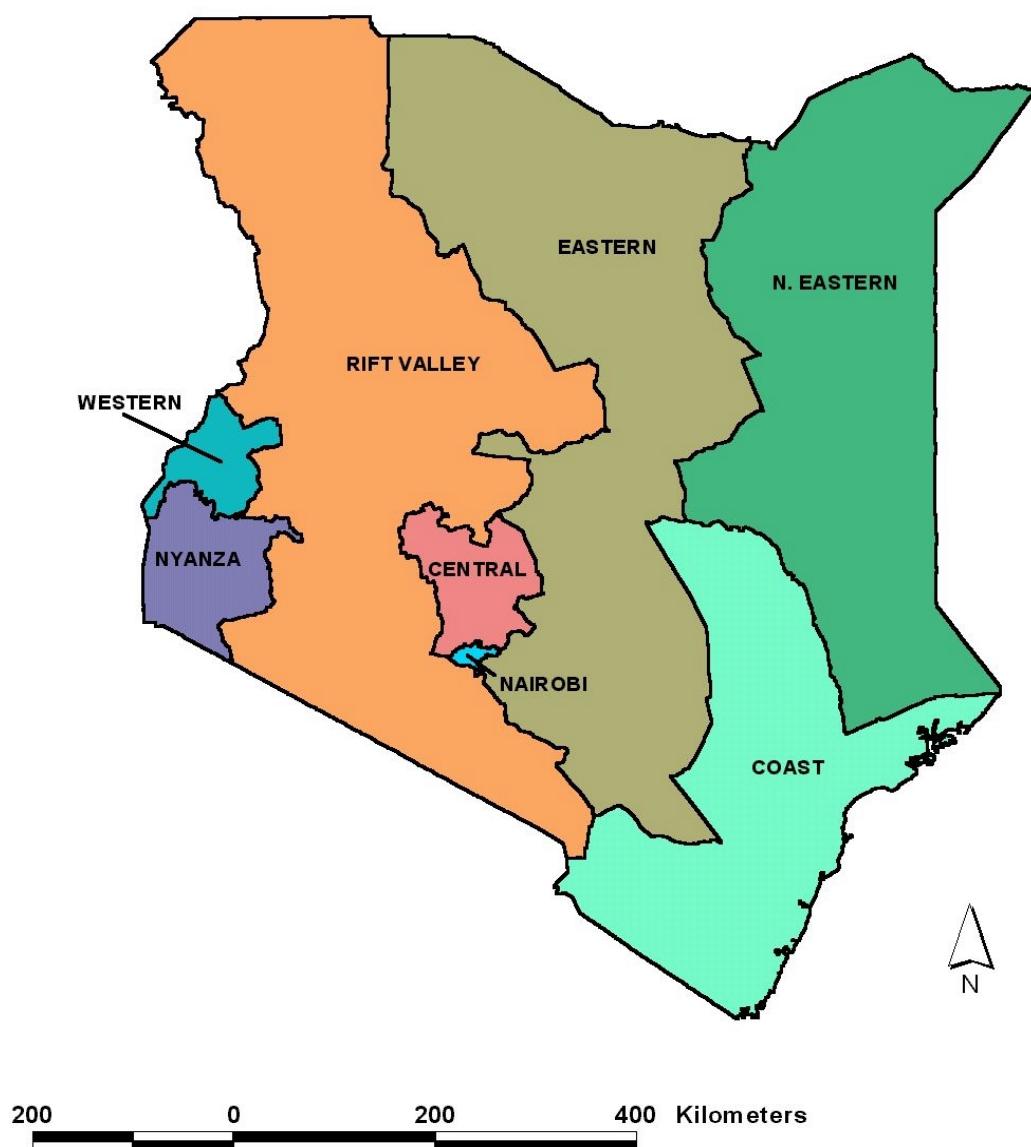


Figure 2.1-1. Provinces of Kenya.