

Operation and management of the livestock market of the Tchaourou township, Benin

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ABSTRACT: Fulani breeders in Tchaourou have created the cattle market to facilitate commercial transactions. Thus, the creation of the Local Association of Management of the Livestock Market of Tchaourou (ALGMBT) constitutes a legal framework for the market making. This research aims to analyze Tchaourou cattle market functioning and management mechanisms.

The methodological approach adopted for this research is based on documentary research, field data collection by 83 actors, users of the market, processing and analysis of the results obtained by the SWOT model.

In view of the results obtained, it appears that the MBCT exchanges with several municipalities in Benin or neighboring countries. The MBCT contributes to the municipality development through the various taxes, either 500f for large ruminants or 100f for small ruminants). Thus, the MBCT pays at least 80,000f to the town hall every market day. Nevertheless, the actors in the performance of their role face certain difficulties which constitute a limit to the MBCT development. Faced with these difficulties, solutions approaches have been proposed.

KEYWORDS: Tchaourou, cattle, market, cattle market.

1 INTRODUCTION

The rural sector is at the heart of the development of most African countries south of the Sahara. It supports 70 to 80% of the working population and contributes 30 to 50% of the GDP of these countries. The situation of rural populations is still very precarious there and is characterized by a particularly low standard of living (B. Diallo, 2004, p. 6).

The livestock sector in Sub-Saharan Africa actively contributes to the economies of different countries. In addition to the contribution in food resources, livestock ensures multifunctional activities whose monetary valuation is often difficult to apprehend, given their diffuse state in the daily life of pastoral populations. This is the social role, the character of which for some families is a cultural foundation, the economic role due to its sometimes exclusive contribution to the support of family budgets, the technical role for its contribution to the work force and to the economy. maintenance of soil fertility and the strategic role in monetary capitalization ensuring family security (B. Diallo, 2004, p. 5).

The countries of West and Central Africa are still marked by multiple fragmentation in terms of trade policy in general and transactions in animal products in particular (Philip, 2005 cited by K. Abdoulaye, 2014, p. 15).

Livestock is an important part of the national economy. Thus, it is one of the predominant activities of Benin and contributes not only to the development of the country's economy but also and above all to the improvement of its food security (M. Ouédraogo, 2004, p.17). With around 36% of GDP (MAEP, 2008), livestock occupy a prominent place. It provides animal proteins with great nutritional value in the diet, but above all it contributes to the creation of inner wealth. In 2008, according to APRM statistics, the herd numbered 1,905,400 head of cattle, 2,292,300 head of sheep / goats, 340,500 head of pigs and 14,914,500 poultry. Two thirds of the national herd (1.5 million cattle, and 2 million sheep / goats) are concentrated in the North, which benefits from 900 mm of rain per year. In this region, the Borgou and Alibori alone account for almost half of the cattle herd. It is in this area that the cattle markets were created. In these markets, the sale takes place mainly in the Fulani camps. Also, there are so-called traditional cattle markets governed by local authorities and organized by intermediaries. Livestock is an important part of the national economy. Thus, it is one of the predominant activities of Benin and contributes not only to the development of the country's economy but also and above all to the improvement of its food security (M. Ouédraogo, 2004, p.17). With around 36% of GDP (MAEP, 2008), livestock occupy a prominent place. It provides animal proteins with great nutritional value in the diet, but above all it contributes to the creation of inner wealth. In 2008, according to APRM statistics, the herd numbered 1,905,400 head of cattle, 2,292,300 head of sheep / goats, 340,500 head of pigs and 14,914,500 poultry. Two thirds of the national herd (1.5 million cattle, and 2 million sheep / goats) are concentrated in the North, which benefits from 900 mm of rain per

year. In this region, the Borgou and Alibori alone account for almost half of the cattle herd. It is in this area that the cattle markets were created. In these markets, the sale takes place mainly in the Fulani camps. Also, there are so-called traditional cattle markets governed by local authorities and organized by intermediaries.

From this reflection began the process towards transparent management of transactions and the adoption of the principle of the cattle market. Thus, with the help of the chamber of agriculture through the PPAB project and local communities, self-managed livestock markets have emerged in northern Benin. In this type of market, that of Tchaourou, which is a market in transition between a traditional market and a self-managed market, is the subject of this research. The choice of this market is justified by the fact that Tchaourou is a transit zone for transhumants (especially from Nigeria and Togo). It is essential to analyze the management of this place of transaction in order to measure the strengths and weaknesses related to its mode of operation in order to finally find solutions to any problems. Faced with these findings, a main question arises: What are the functioning and management mechanisms of the cattle market in the township of Tchaourou? The overall objective of this research is to analyze the functioning and management mechanisms of the cattle market in the township of Tchaourou.

2 PRESENTATION OF THE RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

The present research is carried out in the township of Tchaourou. Located in the department of Borgou between 8° 40'04" and 9° '25" North latitude and between 2° 00'28" and 3° 12'43" East longitude (IGN-BENIN 1992), the town de Tchaourou covers an area of 7,256 km² or 28% of the total area of this department and about 6.5% of the national territory (largest municipality in Benin in terms of area). It is bounded to the north by the townships of Parakou, N'Dali and Pèrèrè to the south by the township of Ouèssè, to the east by the Federal Republic of Nigeria and to the west by the townships of Bassila and Djougou. It is subdivided into seven districts (Tchaourou, Tchatchou, Sanson, Goro, Bétèrou, Alafiariou and Kika). The district of Tchaourou being the capital of the commune, it houses the cattle market of the commune of Tchaourou located in the heart of the city about 2 km from the national inter - state road and between 2° 35'11" East longitude and 8° 53'11" North latitude. Of these seven districts, four supply the market (Tchaourou, Goro; Alafiariou and Tchatchou). The three remaining, by the fact that they are close to the township of Parakou, supply the market of Tourou (Parakou). Figure 1 shows the geographic location of the study setting.

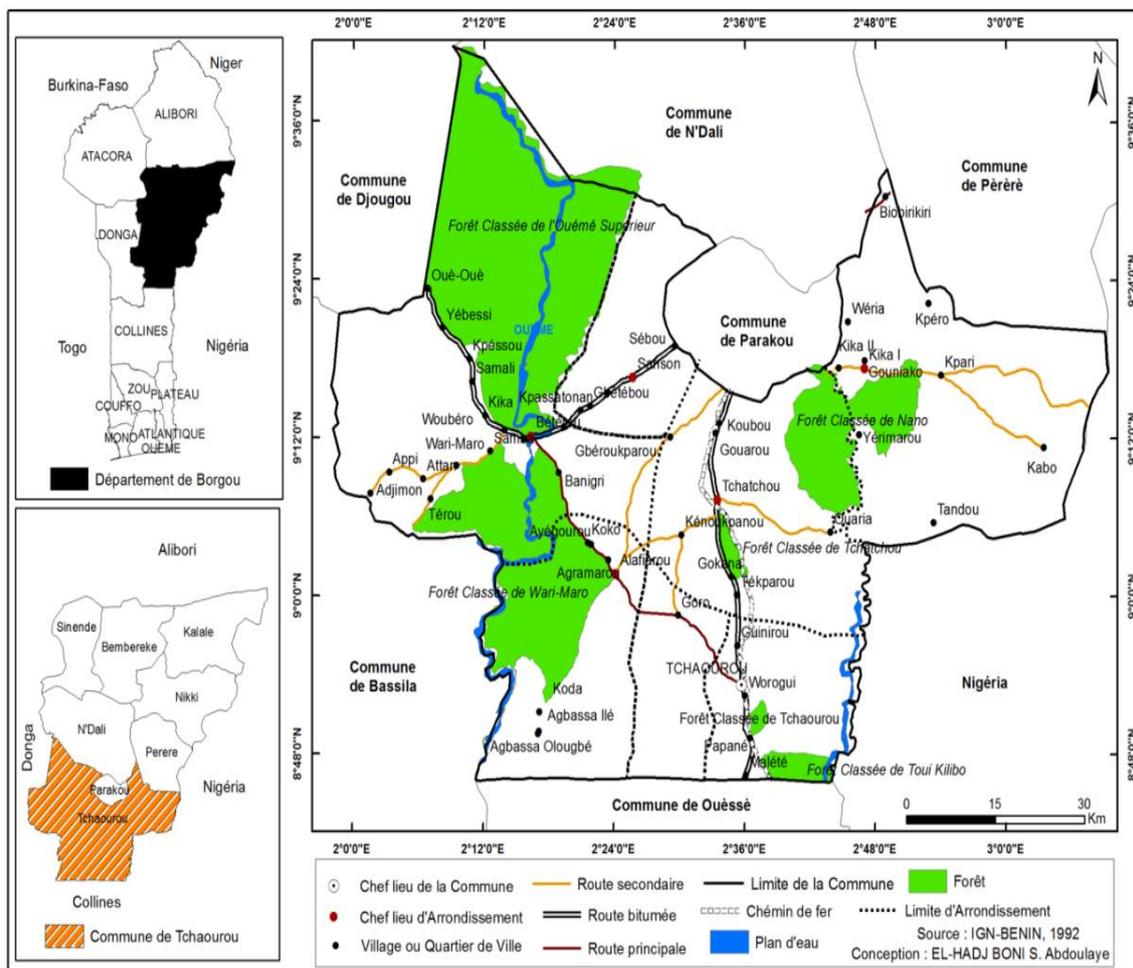


Fig. 1. Geographical location of the study framework

From the observation of Figure 1, it appears that the township of Tchaourou and the Federal Republic of Nigeria share the same border. In addition, the township of Tchaourou is the largest of the communes in Benin in terms of surface area and at the same time the departmental limit south of Borgou.

Physically, the town of Tchaourou enjoys a South Sudanese climate marked by a rainy season from April to the end of October, alternated with a dry season. This is a uni-modal climate. Rainfall totals vary between 100 and 1,200 mm and account for 6 to 7 wet months during the year. The number of rainy days is around 100, except in dry years (Afrique Conseil, 2006, p.10). This distribution of the climate makes the breeding and marketing of animals favorable.

The hydrographic network is essentially dominated by the tributaries of the Ouémé and Okpara rivers. These tributaries water most of the districts and promote the development of activities linked to livestock (S. Zachari, 2015, p.12). The availability of this hydrographic network favors the watering of animals.

In addition, the relief of the township of Tchaourou consists of a plain and a plateau surmounted in places by mounds / hills sometimes reaching an altitude of more than 300 m (case of the Wari-marou massif). This relief facilitates transhumance.

Regarding socioeconomic data, it should be said that the township of Tchaourou has 7 districts, 36 villages and city districts comprising several localities. These villages and city districts are home to a population of 223,138 in 2012. The population density is 30.75 inhabitants / km² and the annual growth rate is 6.73%. (INSAE / RGPH 4, 2013). All these potentialities favor the development and evolution of livestock farming in the town. Figure 2 shows the evolution of the herd in the township of Tchaourou

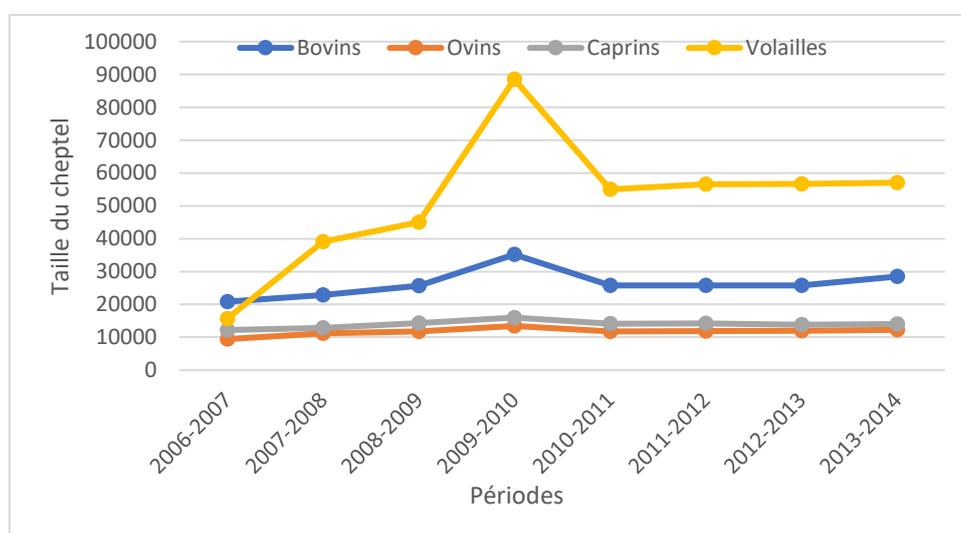


Fig. 2. Evolution of the herd in the municipality of Tchaourou from 2006 to 2014

Source: CeRPA / Tchaourou, 2017

The figure 2 shows that from 2006 to 2014 the overall herd number experienced a substantial increase of 771,223 head.

Poultry come first with 50% then cattle come in second with 25% before goats which make 14% and finally 11% for sheep.

3 DATA AND METHODS

This is the process used to collect data, process it and analyze the results. One approach involves determining the sample and the study population.

3.1 SAMPLING

The target groups selected for the study are sellers, buyers, collection agents, transporters and market managers and local authorities. Four (4) out of the seven (7) districts supply the market (Tchaourou, Goro; Alafiarou and Tchatchou). These districts were selected for the study because of their role in the supply of cattle to the commune of Tchaourou. The sampling was carried out according to the reasoned choice. A total of 83 actors were interviewed. As the market does not have a list of players, the choice of these respondents was made in a reasoned manner, taking into account their regularity on the site. Thus, only regular actors were targeted by the investigation. The table 1 presents the socio-professional distribution of the respondents.

Table 1. Socio-professional distribution of the respondents

Actors	Buyers		Sellers		Agents of collection		Responsible of management		Carriers		Restorers		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Efficient	23		22		10		7		12		9		83	
Sex	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Number	21	2	22	0	10	0	5	2	12	0	0	9	70	13

Source: Survey results, August 2019

M: Male; F: Femelle

The table I shows that men are the main players in this market (70 men against 13 women surveyed on the site). In addition, they are present in all socio-professional categories of respondents with the exception of catering, which is mainly owned by women. Finally, buyers and sellers are the most predominant among those surveyed: 43 out of 83, either. a rate of 51.8%, while management managers remain the least numerous: 7 out of 83, either. a rate of 6.02%. To better collect data, certain tools and techniques have been implemented.

3.2 DATA COLLECTED AND METHODS OF ANALYSIS

Individual interview with populations using interview guides and questionnaires is the method used to collect the data. It allowed the actors to explain the mode of operation and management of the livestock market, to expose the difficulties encountered in the exercise of their activities as well as the strategies they think to define in the future for its better promotion. The data collected mainly concerns the areas of influence of the cattle market in the township of Tchaourou, the operation and management of the cattle market in the township of Tchaourou, and strategies for better management of the cattle market. The processing method comes down to coding the files from the field. The questionnaires, interview guides and observation grids were subjected to manual analysis. Both quantitative and qualitative data are grouped by focus. The quantitative data were used to produce the various tables. As for the qualitative data, they made it possible to make analyzes and comments. The information processing was carried out using the computer tool. A thematic analysis of the large groups formed was made in relation to the objectives of the study. Word 2016 software was used for data entry and Excel 2007 for the production of tables and figures. The results are analyzed by the SWOT model.

4 RESULTS

The main results obtained are organized around the areas of influence of the cattle market in the township of Tchaourou, the operation and management of the cattle market in the township of Tchaourou, strategies for better management of the cattle market.

4.1 AREAS OF INFLUENCE OF THE CATTLE MARKET IN THE TOWNSHIP OF TCHAOUROU

Figure 3 below shows the map of the situational flows of animals in the cattle market in the township of Tchaourou.

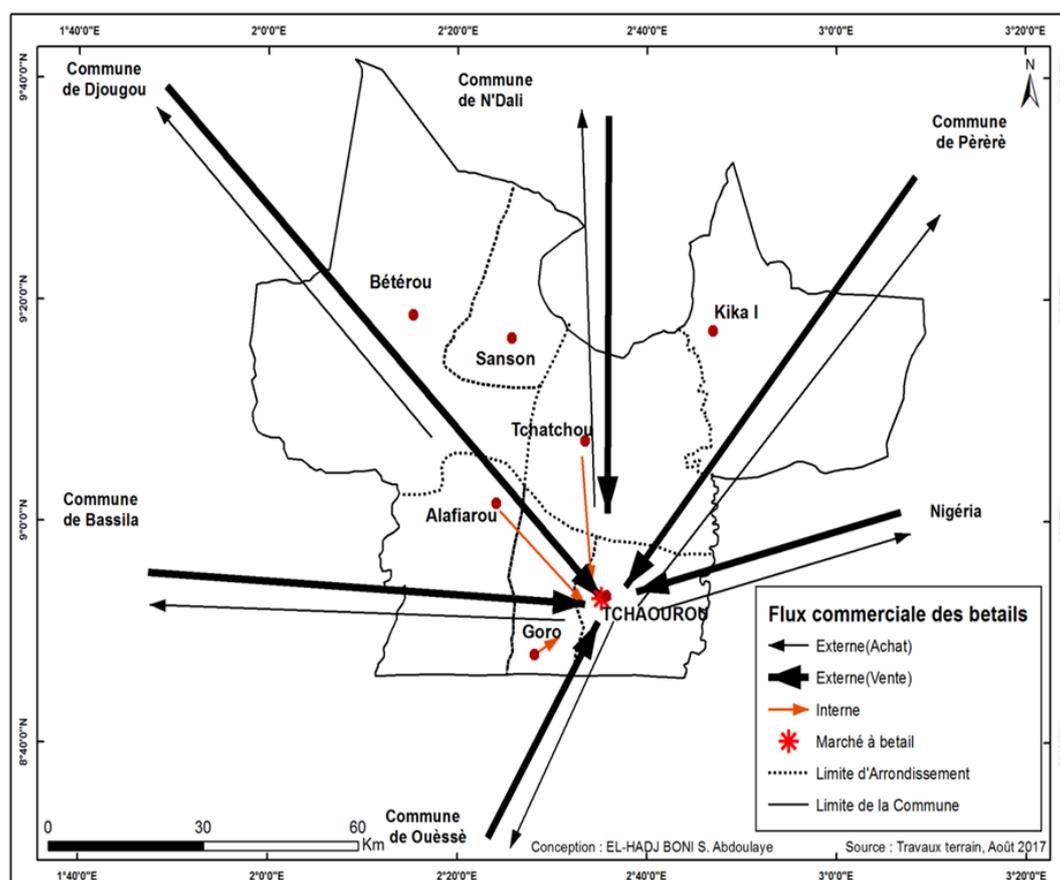


Fig. 3. Situational flows of animals in the cattle market in the township of Tchaourou

Figure 3 shows the districts of the township of Tchaourou which animate the cattle market and also the neighboring municipalities or even countries which come there either to sell and / or to buy animals. Indeed, the cattle trade is experiencing a particular boom in the cattle market of the township of Tchaourou because of the crossroads position of the commune. Thus, this market is supplied by the countries of the sub-region (Niger; Burkina Faso and Nigeria) and the surrounding municipalities (Bassila, Ouèssè, Pèrère, N'Dali and Djougou) who come to sell and / or buy animals. In addition, it is mainly the districts of Goro, Alafiarou and Tchatchou which come to animate the cattle market of Tchaourou.

4.1.1 AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

The cattle market in the township of Tchaourou comes alive every Monday and is supplied locally by animals which come from all the constituent districts of the township except the districts of Kika, Sanson and Bétérou which, because of their proximity to the township of Parakou and to reduce the costs of transporting animals, these districts prefer to serve the market of Tourou (Parakou) with cattle.

4.1.2 AT THE MUNICIPAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

At the municipal and regional level, several municipalities animate the cattle market in the township of Tchaourou. These include, among others, the municipalities of Parakou, Bassila, N'Dali, Djougou, Pèrère and Ouèssè. As much as these traders come to sell their animals, so many others come to buy them.

As for the international level, the proximity of the township of Tchaourou with the great neighbor to the east, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, favors the massive arrival of animals from this country in the cattle market of the municipality. from Tchaourou. The Race of these animals differs from that of Beninese's animals. The Tchaourou township's Cattle Market (MBCT) mainly receives two categories of animals: large ruminants and small ruminants. Large ruminants are made up of three breeds namely: the Borgou breed (Benin), the M'Bororo breed (Niger, Burkina) and the white Fulani breed (Zebus). Regarding small ruminants, we have the Djallonké breed for sheep and the Guinean dwarf breed for goats. During the dry season, most of these animals are transported to Togo via the communes of Bassila and Djougou. As for the animals that are conveyed outside Benin, they leave on Tuesdays around 6 a.m. after the Monday market.

4.1.3 ANIMAL SPECIES TRADED

Plates 1 and 2 below show respectively the cattle and sheep parks in the cattle market in the township of Tchaourou and the goat and poultry parks in the same market.



Plate 1: Cattle and sheep park in the cattle market in the township of Tchaourou

Source: El hadj Boni Soumanou, August 2019

The plate 1 shows the large ruminant park, the area where oxen are bought and sold in the cattle market in the township of Tchaourou and the sheep marketing area.

4.2 OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE CATTLE MARKET IN THE TOWNSHIP OF TCHAUROU

4.2.1 MAIN ACTORS IN THE LIVESTOCK MARKETING CIRCUIT

BREEDERS

They are the first players in the market. Only their presence allows the arrival of other users. These are the main providers of livestock. They are made up of owner-breeders, transhumant breeders and agro-pastoralists who lead their animals to the cattle market. In addition, women are responsible for small livestock farming at the family level. The latter entrust their animals to their husbands who bring them to the MBCT. This explains their absence in the category of sellers in the cattle market.

CATTLE SELLERS / TRADERS

We are talking about professionals in buy and sell operations. They are the most numerous on the MBCT. They have knowledge of all the places likely to have animals and a relative mastery of the actions necessary for the acquisition.

ANIMAL TRANSPORT ACTORS

Truck drivers, direct sellers, loaders of animals on trucks and inspectors are responsible for monitoring the number of animals loaded on trucks.

SECURITY ACTORS

These are the bike racks. The transaction system managed by the collectors and the prepared receipts make it easy to detect cattle thieves. Likewise, the security system used and the closing of the market reassure market users. Along with security measures, thefts have been reduced considerably due to the measures put in place by the management committee to detect animal thieves and find animals purchased but lost. Cattle thieves can therefore be easily identified thanks to the mechanisms put in place.

TAX COLLECTORS

These are the secretaries or ticketters and witnesses. In the MBCT, these two actors work together to collect all livestock taxes in the market.

WITNESSES

In the MBCT, brokers (dilani) of the traditional system are converted into witnesses in direct transactions between sellers and buyers of animals. They facilitate and bear witness to direct transactions, especially in the event of loss of animals sold on the market. Their role helps prevent theft, conflict and loss of animals.

TAX SECRETARIES

They are also called tickettiers in the market. These follow the witnesses in their actions of testimony and transactions. They fill in and issue tickets to sellers and buyers and report the theoretical amount of taxes collected and actually paid by these witnesses to the permanent secretary of the market.



Photo 1: Issue of tickets to the seller and buyer in the presence of a witness

Source: El hadj Boni Soumanou, August 2019

Photo 1 shows the tickettier who is delivering the ticket to buyers and sellers of large ruminants in front of the witness.

PERMANENT SECRETARY OF THE MARKET

The Permanent Secretary is responsible for the animation of the market. It is he who maintains the management tools of the market. He is also responsible for the coordination of all the agents employed in the animation of the market: collectors, loaders, controllers, night watchmen. It reports on its activities to the market management committee. Thus, in the MBCT, his work has become permanent or daily (non-weekly, depending on market days, as in small markets). Each day after market day, especially Tuesday, the permanent secretary takes care of writing the minutes of the Monday market animation.

CONSUMERS

This group of actors is the last link in the livestock marketing circuit. At this level, two categories are to be considered: consumption which takes place through butchery activities and consumption through cultural activities (marriage, mourning, customary ceremony, etc.).

The taxes collected are transferred to an account opened at the Local case of Mutual Agricultural Credit (CLCAM). In order to always better manage, the MBCT has adopted a more formal legal and organizational framework by transforming the Management Grouping of the Livestock Market of Tchaourou (GGMBT) into a Local Association for the Management of the Market in Tchaourou (ALGMBT) in June 2017. This association, with its statutes and internal regulations, has well-defined objectives. Only the problem of converting "dilani" into witnesses means that the MBCT has until now been described as a market in transition from a traditional market to a self-managed market. Table I shows the distribution of taxes on cattle in the cattle market in the township of Tchaourou.

Table 2. Distribution of taxes on cattle in the municipality's cattle market

Taxes Cattle	Sellers	Buyers	Total
Thick ruminants	1000f CFA	1000f CFA	2000f CFA
Small ruminants	100f CFA	100f CFA	200f CFA

Source: August 2017 survey results

In total, 2000F are collected per head of cattle sold and 200F per unit of small ruminants. Of these 2000f of large ruminants, 500f go to the town hall; 500f to the witnesses and 1000f to the management committee. Concerning small ruminants, 100f are paid to the town hall and 100f to the committee. It should also be noted that the town hall charges 500f as the right of access to the market for any loaded vehicle that wants to access the market. Likewise, any vehicle loaded inside the market and wanting to exit the market will have to pay 300f which goes to the management committee.

AT THE LEVEL OF TRADERS AND CARRIERS

The creation of the MBCT systematically put an end to purchases in the camps at the merchant level. Market access limits wasted time spent in herds to buy livestock. Buying on credit in the market is reduced compared to the traditional market where it is still practiced. The prices charged in the market are higher than those charged in the camps. Thus, these cattle traders have a financial satisfaction which contributes more and more to the improvement of their living conditions.

Transporters, especially large carriers, also gain by transporting animals acquired by buyers from their respective localities rather than leaving with their empty truck, after unloading merchandise on the market. They thus contribute to increasing the economic and social effects linked to the operation and management of the cattle market in the township of Tchaourou.

4.2.2 SOCIOECONOMIC EFFECTS LINKED TO THE OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE CATTLE MARKET IN THE TOWNSHIP OF TCHAOUROU

SOCIOECONOMIC EFFECTS AT THE LEVEL OF PASTORALISTS

Pastoralists have real control over and improved selling prices for their live cattle. Payment is made in cash unlike the traditional management system where the animal is often sold to butchers and traders on credit. The dynamics of self-managed livestock markets have also enabled pastoralists to increase their income margin when selling an animal. In fact, the selling price of an animal in the cattle market is about 25% higher than the selling price of the same animal when it is sold at the camp. The herders collect the animals that are already old and bring them to the market to sell them in order to buy younger ones. They can sell one animal for 500,000f to buy two for 250,000f. In doing so, not only do they replace the old beasts with young ones but also and above all they increase the number of animals in the herd since at a certain age, when the beast is old, it no longer reproduces.

This situation had a direct impact on the economic income of the breeder. The ease of pastoralists is justified by improving their living conditions. Most of these pastoralists, who once came to the market by bicycle, now come by motorbike.

SOCIOECONOMIC EFFECTS AT THE ANIMAL LEVEL

The installation of the veterinary pharmacy by UCOPER allows breeders to stock up on basic and quality veterinary products to treat their animals before withdrawing them from the market. Likewise, the existence of a collegial climate of opinion-sharing and participatory exchanges between the different actors has enabled the improvement of animal health through the training of the sons of breeders in technical notions on veterinary care of based. The ALGMBT has taken steps to demarcate transhumance corridors to avoid conflicts linked to animal wandering.

SOCIOECONOMIC EFFECTS IN TERMS OF JOB CREATION AND THE FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY

The cattle market in the township of Tchaourou has created employment for young people and is in the process of enhancing the role of the "Dilani" as witnesses. Today this market has, for example, 09 secretaries or tickettters, 08 witnesses (provisional), 01 guard, 02 bicycle keepers, 02 controllers, 06 chargers, 01 cabinet agent. The significant income they derive from it enables them to meet the needs of their respective households. According to the information collected, tickettters are paid according to the number of tickets issued and this to fight against laziness. Thus, the strategy adopted by the management committee of the cattle market is proving to be a tool for local development.

Thanks to the MBCT, the UCOPER women's groups have set up milk collection centers in the Peulh camps. It should be noted that the income and living conditions of women pastoralists improved through the sale of cheese and milk.

It should also be noted that thanks to the MBCT, a good number of Fulani, Baatonu and Nagot women from the township of Tchaourou have devoted themselves to catering activities. They sell different kinds of food which allows them to generate a substantial turnover. This also allows them to contribute to the education of children and other needs of their households. Today, it can be seen that the creation of the cattle market has enabled the development of other commercial activities such as the trade in agricultural products and especially the trade in salt.

For the Town Hall, the MBCT contributes to the municipal budget. Thus, from 2013 to 2018, the contribution of the MBCT to the municipal budget amounted to 22,198,300 CFA francs. Figure 4 shows the contribution of the MBCT to the municipal budget from 2013 to 2018 through taxes.

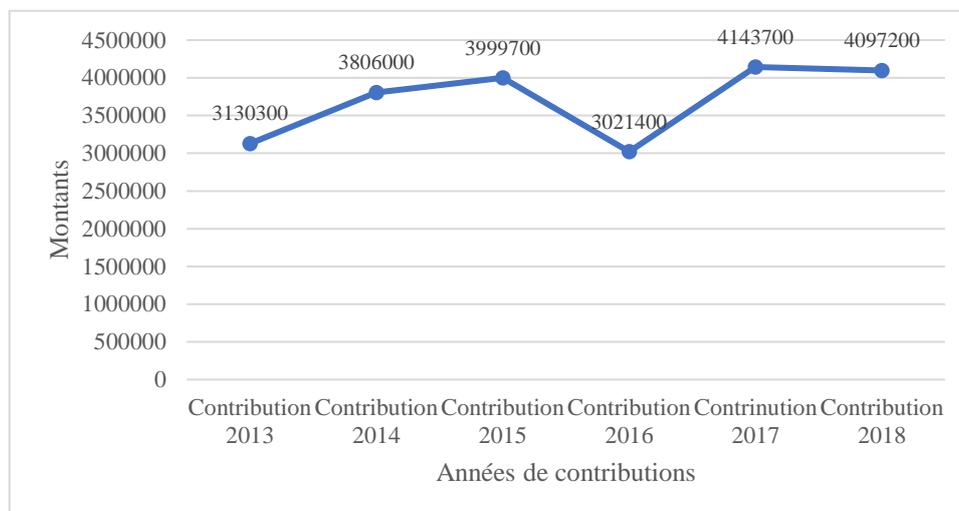


Fig. 4. MBCT's annual contribution to the municipal budget from 2013 to 2018

Source: Tchaourou Town Hall, August 2019

Figure 4 shows that in 2013, the MBCT contributed to the municipal budget of 3,130,300 francs, 3,806 / 700 francs in 2014 and 3,899,700 francs in 2015. From 2013 to 2016, this contribution was 10,836. 700 CFA francs and therefore experienced a growth of 769,400 CFA francs. However, due to the cattle crisis in 2016, there was a drop in income of nearly one million CFA francs, or exactly 978,300 CFA francs. This decrease is associated with the many problems associated with the management and operation of the MBCT.

4.3 PROBLEMS RELATED TO THE OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE MBCT

On the material level, we note as problem: the defective state of the stores, the insufficiency of the hangars. As a result, some actors, especially women food vendors and others, sit under trees. This situation does not allow the products to be adequately protected during the rainy season, let alone the sellers and buyers of livestock. The lack of boarding places is also one of the material problems that makes boarding and disembarking of animals difficult.

On the socio-economic level, the problems identified concern the actors of the MBCT. Among these problems we have:

- Insufficient financial means for livestock traders which limits their purchasing power;
- Difficulties linked to the transport of animals such as, among other things, conflicts between breeders and farmers for transport on foot;
- The defective condition of the tracks connecting the production areas to the assembly centers, consumption and national roads;
- The problem of the representativeness of women in the market management committee;
- Insufficient partners in supporting the market towards its development;
- Growing insecurity: robberies are frequent on Mondays (market days) and Tuesdays on the roads leading to the market;
- The market management committee is also faced with difficulties linked to the maintenance of the market, the unavailability of drinking water in the market, the non-payment of taxes by certain traders who sit down at the market. Entry to the market to buy animals, especially small ruminants. As a result, collectors are unable to collect all the taxes. The problem of converting the "dilani" into witnesses because of their large number has the consequence: the delay in the transition of the mbct into a self-managed market. From all of the above, it emerges that there are many issues that hamper the dynamism of the mbct. To these problems, it is essential to find strategies for better management of the livestock market.

4.4 STRATEGIES FOR BETTER MANAGEMENT OF THE LIVESTOCK MARKET

4.4.1 ON THE MATERIAL LEVEL

Always in order to better manage the cattle market, certain suggestions are made on the material level. These include the construction of accommodation rooms and the increase in hangars to increase the capacity of the market, the increase in the loading and unloading docks of animals and the repair of stores.

4.4.2 SOCIOECONOMIC PLAN

It is right to:

- Facilitate access to low-rate micro credits for traders to engage in lucrative activities in order to enable them to carry out their marketing activities;
- Involve women in market decision-making by increasing their number in the management committee;
- Strengthen the control of traders at the exit in order to avoid cases of theft and prevent traders from waiting at the entrance of the market;
- Maintain good collaboration between market players;
- Build a new large-diameter well and make drinking water available;
- Secure the axes that lead to the market and the interior of the market on Mondays and Tuesdays with the contribution of hunters and law enforcement agencies in order to fight against robberies on these axes;
- Define transhumance corridors in order to limit conflicts between farmers and herders;
- Make the free movement of animals effective by creating transhumance corridors.
- Provide a drinking trough and a feeder within the market;
- Create fodder reserve parks specifically for the actors (breeders and traders of the MBCT) and install, if possible, an automatic teller machine in the market for the safety of traders and the facilitation of transactions.

In addition, UCOPER and the town hall must seek technical and financial partners for the development of the market and settle once and for good the situation of the conversion of intermediaries into witnesses in order to completely transform the MBCT into a self-managed market.

5 DISCUSSION

In the study area, the situation in terms of the operation and management of the livestock market involves several players in the livestock marketing circuit. This generates socioeconomic effects linked to the operation and management of the cattle market in the township of Tchaourou. According to K. Abdoulaye (2014, p.27), the marketing of livestock is an activity that arouses a lot of interest in view of the world it mobilizes and the financial transactions it induces. For him, the cattle trade takes place mainly in related markets. They are also places for the exchange of information and communication. M. Ouédraogo (2004, p. 11) came to the same conclusion by considering that being an activity of valorization of animal products, the marketing of livestock plays a very important role in the economy of the Sahel region and the markets livestock remain places where most of the actors involved in this activity meet.

The results of B. Bio. and K. Sero (1991, p. 47), D. Koumagnon (2004, p. 71), and C. Edoun (2013, p.32) remain in the same logic of the marketing of livestock and these social effects -economic and reveal that the animals raised are intended for useful purposes. For them, the sale of animals sometimes experiences a downward trend in certain markets. This is a situation that involves the question of supply and demand. For these authors, this is linked to a decrease in the inflow of cattle from neighboring countries, in particular Burkina Faso, and that of demand for Nigeria, especially during the Tabaski festival (a festival of great importance for Muslims). Thus, the variation in prices and the number of livestock differs from one region to another depending on climatic conditions and the geographical location of the market, which remains a place where human relations are formed through transactions or trading transactions concluded between buyers and sellers.

Regarding the problems related to the functioning and management of livestock, Z. Tassou (2004, p. 118) remains in line with the results obtained in this research on Tchaourou and affirms in his analysis on the functioning of the market in Benin that there are inadequacies which are at the root of certain difficulties such as the capacity to ensure the recurrent costs linked to infrastructures and the sustainability of these. Likewise, Y. B Cissé, (2009) thinks that the problems of breeding are made up on the one hand by the low level of education of the breeders, the lack of technical training for them, the poor management of the activity. not allowing its insertion in a market economy and on the other hand the ignorance of the breeders and agro-breeders of the notion of the partnership which should exist between actors of the same profession.

In order to allow this activity to run smoothly, urgent solutions must be found. This work is part of the goal of improving the functioning mechanisms and management of the livestock market so that future interventions are better.

6 CONCLUSION

This research enabled us to better understand the functioning mechanisms of the cattle market in the township of Tchaourou while analyzing its management.

The results showed that the township of Tchaourou, by virtue of its geographical location (a common crossroads for Nigerian and Togolese transhumants), abounds in enormous assets favorable to the trade in livestock. It also showed that the cattle market is not only a meeting place for various populations but also and above all for discussion. In addition, she revealed that the transparent management of the livestock market improves the living conditions of families and promotes the creation of community infrastructure. This verifies the hypotheses stated at the start of this research. Nevertheless, the problems facing the players remain and remain an obstacle for the proper functioning of the market.

Of all these problems, that of the insufficiency of dams for watering animals is glaring because in the dry season, herders migrate to Togo for the satisfaction of their animals in water. Faced with these problems, it is essential that each actor play his role in the development of this common place of transaction, as state institutions and technical and financial partners are already doing.

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