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Pratique de l'Elevage des Bovins au Bénin: son Intégration dans la Gestion des Ecosystèmes du Terroir de Doguè

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ABSTRACT: Since the 70s' drought, all the agro ecologic areas of Bénin was invaded by local and foreign herds. They left protected forest reserves as a result of management programme of these forests. The rural area of Doguè, at the boarder the protected forest reserves of Wari-Marou and Monts Kouffé became an area of settlement and transit for cattle in pursuit of pasture and water. The all of Doguè is characterised by a soudano-guinean climate with one dry season and one rainy season with maximum rainfall in August. The two main economic activities this study area were agriculture and breeding. The area of Doguè houses a large grassland that is fodder potential and hydric resources so Doguè is a suitable area for cattle breeding. Since 2001, Fulani settlers came into the village. Most of them came from Nigeria.

Cattle raising which is the sole activity of Fulani was introduced in Doguè in 1996. The current livestock that we censused was about 6214 heads of permanent cattle and 5000 new comer cattle. Many others left the area after a short stay, moving to Kikélé, Manigri, Bassila and N'tchourou in Togo. This is the traditional type of breeding. Animals have to go very far to look for pasture. Four types of grassland were distinguished on the basis of linear releves. They were : *Andropogon schirensis* and *Hyparrhenia involucrata* pasture of wooded savannas, *Schizachyrim schweinfurthii* and *Hyparrhenia rufa* pasture of grassy depression savannas, *Hyparrhenia involucrata* and *Brachiaria lata* pasture of fallows and *Andropogon tectorum* and *Aframomum alboviolaceum* pasture of woodlands. The grazing value of these pastures was less than 50 percent. The average carrying capacity of the Doguè grasslands is 0,22 UBT / ha.

Most of pastures occurred in savannas and woodlands. Cattle nerds feed mainly on fodder and waste from harvest. Fodder from three species such as *Afzelia africana*, *Pterocarpus erinaceus* and *Khaya senegalensis* was exploited during the dry season. These species was also logged as wood. These pressures provoked a reduction in fodder potential which are over exploited by Fulani herdsmen.

The gassy savannah of depressions were the most grazed by cattle herds because they remained green grassy all the dry season. Settled Fulani who practiced agriculture and breeding obtained the yield of crops in Doguè area they used cow dung as fertilizers.