



 CASE STUDY

STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR LIVESTOCK FARMING

FOOD SECURITY

AbacusBio was invited to provide an assessment of the red meat sector and supply chain in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The theme of food security and sustainability gains more attention across the middle east as it is challenged with a growing human population with a young demographic which is increasingly discerning; finite and scarce fresh groundwater sources, and traditional farming systems that rely on imported Alfalfa and Barley to feed livestock. AbacusBio's assessment investigated pathways to enhance and ultimately transform the sector to one that is more efficient, targeting productive breeding stock while maintaining productivity.

The assessment was thorough, from sources of upstream genetics, the impact of imported livestock, through to the retail counter and how consumption of red meat is changing. We identified opportunities to blend strong farming traditions and practices that have existed in the region for centuries, with elements of modernization that utilize technology and different farming practices to improve productivity

An appreciation for seedstock producers; implementing proactive animal health programs; the collection of livestock performance data for the generation of knowledge-based selection or culling decisions; and trialing structured mating policies were areas of investigation.

This project will develop over time as Saudi farmers are introduced to the idea and benefits of change. Importantly, this project allows the agricultural sector to align with the aspirations of the Kingdoms Vision 2030 for a vibrant society, thriving economy, and an ambitious nation. The assessment paves the way for a pilot project phase where farmers receive support and technologies from newly trained veterinarians who are equipped to assist farmers. New infrastructure and resources will also be built over time to keep pace with the expectations of young farmers as they adopt practices that allow them to improve their farming operations and livelihoods.

- Saudi Vision 2030 is a plan to reduce Saudi Arabia's dependence on oil, diversify its economy, and develop public service sectors

- The main sheep breeds in Saudi Arabia are Al Najdi (النجدى), Al Naimi (النعمي), and Al Harri (الحري)

