



Bovine meat trend in Egypt: factors affecting domestic prices.

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Abstract : Bovine meat is an important economic and dietary value in Egypt. This study examined the trend of bovine meat production, consumption and imports during the period 2000- 2014. It also examined the main factors driving meat prices up at local markets over the same period. The results showed that average meat consumption (598.5 ± 20.3) in 1000 MT was greater than average meat production (384.5 ± 18.4) in 1000 MT over the entire study period ($T = 2.83$, $df = 7$, $P < 0.05$). Despite a peak in year 2005 meat production attained a negative annual percentage of change by 3.5% during the study period. Consumption and production exhibited a positive correlation coefficient of 0.69 at $P < 0.05$, which indicated a similar pattern of cyclic changes. Despite a peak in year 2005 meat consumption attained a negative annual percentage of change by 1.5% during the study period. On the other hand, meat imports kept a pattern of steady increase with an annual percentage of change by 2.3% to offset the meat gap, which was estimated to be 211, 000 MT . Meat prices kept rising throughout the study period where the results showed that with one year increase the meat price index increased by 9.03%. We used a level-level multiple regression model to predict the factors affecting meat prices at local market. The results indicated that meat production, exchange rate of US\$ for Egyptian pound and per capita income were the most important driving factors of meat prices. The latter two factors were the highly significant drivers in the model. The study recommends the government to institute new policies to determine the optimal slaughter weight of bovines, provide training for cattle feedlot holders on the most effective cost/benefit ways of formulating fattening rations using locally available crop by products and help them to improve the genetics of their feeder cattle to achieve a high carcass quality. The relevant authorities also should try to establish a value based system that measures the quality of fed cattle carcasses and then establish individual sale prices based upon these measures.

Key words : regression, bovine meat, genetics, feedlot, crop by products.