FEED THE FUTURE INNOVATION LAB FOR LIVESTOCK SYSTEMS

**Innovation Platform Meeting**

**Harmony Hotel, Bole, Addis Ababa – February 19, 2019**

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) awarded the University of Florida (UF) Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) funds to establish the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems. This five-year initiative (October 2015 to September 2020) supports USAID’s agricultural research and capacity building work under Feed the Future, the U.S. Government’s global hunger and food security initiative. The International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) is the UF/IFAS partner in implementation of the program.

The vision of the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems is to sustainably intensify smallholder livestock systems in order to improve human nutrition, health, and incomes. Initiated in October 2015, the program is now well established in its core target countries, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nepal, and Cambodia. Competitively selected Reach and Focus projects based on priorities developed in a participatory manner are operational in the six core countries.

The Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems conducts meetings of an Innovation Platform, i.e., a multi-stakeholder forum for participatory priority development, dialogue, and research to development linkages, to ensure that the Lab’s research has practical relevance and leads to solid developmental impacts. The first Innovation Platform meeting in Ethiopia took place in February 2016, and subsequently six top-ranked proposals that addressed the identified priorities were funded. During the second and third meetings in January 2017 and 2018, the principal investigators of these funded projects presented their research to the stakeholders and received valuable feedback and guidance. In addition, in 2018 proposed scaling plans for some of the focus projects were developed and new projects funded by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation were presented.

The fourthInnovation Platform meeting will take place on February 19, 2019.

The purpose of this multi-stakeholder Innovation Platform meeting is to share the main research findings of ongoing and finished projects, as well as the ongoing Bill & Melinda Gates foundation funded Equip project, with the livestock sector stakeholders in Ethiopia. Coming together as a diverse group of stakeholders gives us the opportunity to explore:

* Strategies for effective private sector engagement.
* Implications of the livestock, food safety, and nutrition related research conducted within the framework of the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems for the livestock sector and nutrition improvements in Ethiopia
* Opportunities for leveraging related initiatives funded by different sources.

**Innovation Platform Meeting, February 19, 2019**

| **Time** | **Topic** | **Presenter** |
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| 8:15 - 8:30 am | Registration  |  |
| **8:30 - 8:50 am** | **Welcome and opening** | Dr. Gebrezgiabiher Gebreyohannes, State Ministry, Ministry of AgricultureDr. Faith Bartz Tarr, AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow & Agriculture Officer, representative of the United States Agency for International Development, USAIDDr. Diriba Geleti, Deputy Director and representative of the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research, EIARDr. Siboniso Moyo, Director General’s representative of the International Livestock Research Institute, ILRI, in EthiopiaDr. Adegbola Adesogan – Director, Livestock Systems Innovation Lab, University of Florida, UF |
| 8:50 - 9:00 am | Meeting objectives and introductions  | Dr. Zeleke Mekuriaw, UF/ILRI |
| 9:00 - 9:20 am  | Update on Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems in Ethiopia and globally | Dr. Adegbola Adesogan, UF  |
| 9:20 - 9:45 am | Update on livestock research in Ethiopia | Dr. Fekede Feyissa, Director, Livestock Research, EIAR |
| 9:45 - 10:30 am | CAGED: Overview and initial results of formative research | Dr. Arie Havelaar, Professor; Microbial Risk Assessment and Epidemiology of Foodborne Diseases, UF  |
| **10:30 - 11:00 am** | **Break and group photo** |  |
| 11:00 - 11:30 am | Reach Project: Addressing young stock mortality in smallholder farms and pastoral herds of Ethiopia  | Dr. Woutrina Smith and Gema Vidal, University of California Davis, UC DavisWoutrina Smith, University of California, DavisDr. Nigatu Kebede, Addis Ababa UniversityDr. Tsegaw Fentie, University of Gondar |
| 11:30 am - 12:00 pm | Reach Project: Linking cattle nutrition to human nutrition: a value chain approach to improving the production, handling, and consumption of animal source foods in Ethiopia  | Dr. Sintayehu Yigerem Mersha, Hawassa University |
| 12:00 - 12:30 pm | Reach Project: Improving the evidence and policies for better performing livestock systems in Ethiopia [ELISE]  | Seneshaw Tamru, International Food Policy Research Institute, IFPRI |
| **12:30 - 1:30 pm** | **Lunch break** |
| **1:30 - 2:15 pm** | **Poster Bus Stops / Shift and Share** |
|  | Focus Project: Improving handling practices and microbiological safety of milk and milk products in Borana pastoral communities, Ethiopia  |
| Focus Project: Mycotoxin prevalence, risk assessment and mitigation measures in Ethiopia  |
| Focus Project: The effect of passive surveillance training on animal health  |
| **2:15 - 3.15 pm** | **Overview of the five EQUIP Feed projects**  |
|  | Overview | Dr. Ermias Kebreab, UC Davis |
| Inventory of feed resources through a landscape analysis to document the quantities, nutritional qualities and prices, availability and accessibility of feeds | Dr. Adugna Tolera, Hawassa University  |
| Increasing yield, quality and preservation of fodder with location-specific improved forages for the countries’ different agro—ecologies | Dr. Fekede Feyissa, EIAR, and Dr. Muluneh Minta, EIAR |
| Improving capacity to analyze the nutritional value of livestock feeds with near infrared reflectance spectroscopy | Dr. Mulubrhan Balehegn, to present on behalf of Dr. Michael Blummel, ILRI |
| Examining effects of synergizing feed, management and genetic interventions on milk production and health of dairy cows in Ethiopia | Dr. Bayissa Hatew, ACDI/VOCA |
| Determining and meeting of nutrient requirements of indigenous livestock with balanced rations | Dr. Ermias Kebreab, UC Davis |
| **3:15 - 3:45 pm** | **Break**  |  |
| 3:45 - 4:15 pm | **Panel discussion*** Strategies for effective private sector engagement
* Implications of the livestock, food safety, and nutrition related research conducted within the framework of the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems for supporting nutrition improvements and the livestock sector in Ethiopia overall
* Exploration of opportunities for leveraging related initiatives by the Government of Ethiopia and donors other than USAID and BMGF
 | **Panelists**Beruk Yemane, Ethio-FeedDr. Yirgalem Gebremeskel, USAIDDr. Getnet Ali Yimir, Global One Health initiative |
| **4:15 - 4:30 pm** | **Next steps and closing remarks** | **Dr. Adesogan** |