VISION

Our vision is to sustainably intensify smallholder livestock systems in order to improve the nutrition, health, livelihoods and incomes of the poor.

Animal-source foods are commonly lacking in the diets of the poor and vulnerable in developing countries, particularly children and women who need them most. Due to their high content of quality protein and bioavailable micronutrients, increased consumption of animal-source foods (ASF) can improve the nutritional status as well as the growth, psychomotor functions, cognitive development and health of children—especially infants under the age of two.

Causes of low consumption of ASF by the poor include high prices and lack of awareness of the importance of the nutrients they contain for preventing childhood stunting and the associated reductions in growth, cognitive development, health and economic achievement potential. Additional causes are the low productivity and profitability of smallholder livestock systems, which result from low quality and availability of feeds, poor genetics, high disease incidence (including foodborne and zoonotic diseases), inadequate management, poor ASF storage infrastructure, and limited market access or engagement.

By generating evidence-based innovations and improved management strategies, our research for development activities help spur sustainable intensification and thus growth, profitability and resilience of smallholder livestock systems. The resulting improvements in efficiency reduce ASF prices, and when these are combined with improvements in productivity, processing and marketing, they contribute to improved household nutrition, food security and incomes, as well as improved competitiveness of small-scale farmers.
**Competitive Projects:** Funded by USAID, this five-year initiative finances projects in Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Nepal, Niger and Rwanda. After an initial multi-stakeholder Innovation Platform that established country-specific priorities, similar annual meetings are held to share research results and facilitate dialogue with livestock and nutrition stakeholders representing the research, academic, development, policy and private sectors.

We awarded funds to more than 20 international teams for projects lasting either 1.5 years (up to $150,000) or 4 years (up to $1.2 million).

In addition, we coordinate and conduct other research projects, which include:

**Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) Vaccine Associate Award:**
Funded by USAID, this 3-year project (2017-2020) in Kenya and Uganda supports global efforts to eradicate PPR, a highly infectious, viral disease of sheep and goats. Approaches used include a thermostable vaccine, community-based vaccination systems, participatory epidemiology and modeling to target vaccination.

**Equip-Strengthening Smallholder Livestock Systems for the Future:**
Funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, this 5-year effort (2017-2022) in Burkina Faso and Ethiopia addresses two main research domains of (1) improving the availability of quality animal feeds and (2) reducing malnutrition due to Environmental Enteric Dysfunction (gut inflammation syndrome).

**PARTNERSHIPS**
All projects are multidisciplinary and collaborative, and results will be applicable globally. More than 100 partners from governments, universities, organizations and businesses in the US and our focal countries make our work possible.

**CROSS-CUTTING THEMES**
Faculty at the University of Florida contribute to our research themes. They also provide leadership to integrate 3 Cross-Cutting Themes within 4 Areas of Inquiry.
COUNTRIES
1. Burkina Faso
2. Niger
3. Ethiopia
4. Kenya
5. Uganda
6. Rwanda
7. Nepal
8. Cambodia

EXPANDING OUR REACH
Through research, we seek to reduce poverty, improve food security, enhance nutrition and build resilience. Projects integrate approaches of One Health, food systems and climate-smart agriculture. We continually seek ways to expand our scope and impact through wider engagement in research and capacity building activities that contribute to achieving our vision.

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