



FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

FEED THE FUTURE INNOVATION LAB FOR LIVESTOCK SYSTEMS EQUIP—STRENGTHENING SMALLHOLDER LIVESTOCK SYSTEMS FOR THE FUTURE

Component 5 of Feed subproject

Examining Effects of Synergizing Feed, Management and Genetic Interventions on Milk Production and Health of Dairy Cows in Ethiopia

Improving livestock productivity requires synergistic improvement of the pillars of livestock production—feed, management, genetics and health. This project aims to examine how combining feed improvement, management-related training and genetic improvement will synergistically increase milk production and quality and health of dairy cows.

Research location:

- Ethiopia

Implementing Partners:

- ACDI/VOCA
- Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research
- Ethiopian Regional Cooperative Extension System

Duration: 2017-2022

Donor: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Research Objectives and Activities



- To conduct a baseline study to understand the available feeds, feeding and management practices and genetics of animals on smallholder farms
- To conduct a study that examines if combining improved feeding with management training and improved genetics improves milk production by dairy cows

To achieve these objectives, the researchers will conduct experiments on 96 farms in eight districts across four regional states in primary milk shed areas in Ethiopia. Farms with previous experience in the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation-funded PAID and ADGG projects will be targeted in order to leverage their genetic and record keeping resources, and trainings already provided. Additional trainings will be followed by in-person and text-messaging based technical support to ensure that farmers implement the inputs properly and that impact of inputs can be recorded and correctly examined.

Anticipated Results and Deliverables

- Demonstration of the improvements in milk production resulting from synergistic feed, management and genetic interventions.
- Awareness creation among farmers, extension agents and other stakeholders about the relationship between feed, training and genetics on the yield and quality of milk

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