

## Feed The Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems

# Improving the Evidence and Policies for Better Performing Livestock Systems in Ethiopia

Well-performing livestock systems matter enormously for both income and better nutritional outcomes among smallholder farmers in developing countries. Important research is often conducted to improve livestock technologies, yet market and demand issues that might inhibit their adoption are frequently ignored. Failure to engage the right market signals and to gain proper understanding of consumption issues and dynamics often result in wasted efforts to improve the supply environment with adapted technologies.



This project seeks to improve the evidence and policies for better performing livestock systems in Ethiopia, henceforward known as ELISE, and to bring markets and consumption – as well as production – forward as an integral component of research on livestock systems. Greater insights into these aspects will better inform evidence-based decision making, and consequently lead to a better performing livestock sector in Ethiopia.

### Ethiopia Strategy Support Program

The Ethiopia Strategy Support Program (ESSP), an IFPRI collaborative program with the Ethiopian Development Research Institute (EDRI), is set to implement the ELISE project. ESSP is based in Ethiopia and achieves results through its key partners and stakeholders, including policymakers, donors, researchers, and private-sector and civil society leaders. ESSP's collaborative capacity strengthening efforts include building networks, conducting seminars, and providing training for researchers and analysts from diverse institutions. ESSP researchers work closely with organizations like Central Statistical Agency, Ethiopian Development Research Institute (EDRI), Ethiopian Institute for Agricultural Research (EIAR) and national universities to increase skills and capabilities.

ESSP is working on two themes to build a complete understanding of the Ethiopian livestock sector, both in rural areas and in urban surroundings.

## Theme 1: Understanding the dairy value chain

Despite the importance of a well-functioning dairy value chain for nutrition and income generation, especially for women, it is currently not clear what are the most important constraints a better functioning value chain in Ethiopia, and what is holding the country back to achieve a white revolution, as seen in other countries such as India and Kenya. To inform policy making, ESSP will focus on how the Ethiopian rural-urban dairy value chain functions using novel primary data representing each level of the value chain—from rural producers to urban consumers.

## Theme 2: Understanding consumption and markets of Animal Source Foods (ASF)

Under a national analysis, ESSP will perform two studies:

The **first study** will analyze the levels, changes, and drivers for change at the national level in ASF consumption and expenditures, using large representative nationwide household consumption survey data from 1996 to 2016. Understanding consumption dynamics, and the role of multiple factors, will allow ESSP researchers to assess future demand for different types of ASF—and therefore future livestock systems—in Ethiopia.

The **second study** will consider patterns, changes and drivers in livestock and ASF price behavior, based on large national price datasets. Understanding price behavior is very important to assess the impact this has on incomes and the consumption of ASF, in particular for poor, vulnerable, and women-headed households, where high prices of ASF are often prohibitive.

### Funding Information

This project is managed by the **Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems (LSIL)**, which is based at the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Florida.

It works in partnership with the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI).

The LSIL is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through a five-year leader program with an Associates' Cooperative Agreement Award No. AID-OAA-L-15-00003

For more information go to:

<http://livestocklab.ifas.ufl.edu/>

INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
2033 K Street, NW • Washington, DC 20006-1002 USA  
Phone: +1-202-862-5600 • Fax: +1-202-467-4439  
ifpri@cgiar.org • Skype: IFPRIhomeoffice

[www.ifpri.org](http://www.ifpri.org)

ETHIOPIA STRATEGY SUPPORT PROGRAM  
IFPRI – ILRI Campus, P.O. Box 5689, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Phone: +251-11-617-2555 • Fax: +251-11-646-2318  
Bart Minten - Program Leader  
[mahlet.mekuria@cgiar.org](mailto:mahlet.mekuria@cgiar.org)  
[www.essp.ifpri.info](http://www.essp.ifpri.info)