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

FEED THE FUTURE INNOVATION LAB FOR LIVESTOCK SYSTEMS

Invitation to join the Innovation Platform meeting

ETHIOPIA

to be held virtually on March 23, 2021, from 2 to 4 pm Ethiopia Time

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 ten year initiative (Phase I 2016-2020, Phase II 2021-2025) 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 (LSIL) is to sustainably intensify smallholder livestock systems in order to improve human nutrition, health, and incomes. The program is well established in its target countries, namely Ethiopia, Rwanda, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Nepal. New requests for Applications (RFAs) for Phase II will be issued soon. Competitively awarded research for development projects will build on previous LSIL work in each country and align with the livestock sector and consumption of animal source food related research priorities identified by the Government of Ethiopia, USAID/Ethiopia, as well as other stakeholders in country. In Phase II, we are seeking deeper engagement with the private sector (e.g., producers, processors and other value chain actors) as well as with producer organizations, industry associations, and civil society. We also want to engage extension service providers in new ways.

The Lab organizes annual Innovation Platform (IP) meetings to engage stakeholders in participatory priority development, results sharing, and strengthening of research-development linkages to ensure that the research supported by the Lab has practical relevance and contributes to solid developmental impacts.

The main purpose of this year's virtual IP meeting is to share key research results from Phase I and explain plans for Phase II. The event is organized into five parts:

1. Highlight key findings from Phase I
2. Describe research priorities for Phase II
3. Designing research for impact, adoption and scalability
4. Explain the local capacity development approach for Phase II
5. Explore next steps, including eligibility criteria for proposal submission

During this IP meeting we only have limited time to share project findings. In upcoming months, the Lab will organize several thematic knowledge sharing webinars to showcase research findings. We will invite you to those webinars when more details are available.

We look forward to seeing you on March 23. Please confirm your interest in participating in the IP meeting by responding to this email livestock-lab@ufl.edu. And please feel free to reach out to our local coordinator, Dr. Zeleke Mekuriaw, at Z.Mekuriaw@cgiar.org with any questions or concerns.

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AGENDA (Draft)

EAT	EDT	Topic	Speaker, facilitator
1:45 pm	6:45 am	Tech check in and socializing	Andrea Bohn
2:00 pm	7:00 am	Welcome and opening remarks	Gbola Adesogan – Director, Livestock Systems Innovation Lab, University of Florida, UF Yirgalem Gebremeskel - Livestock Program Management Specialist and Tech Advisor USAID/Ethiopia Siboniso Moyo – Director General's representative, Ethiopia, International Livestock Research Institute, ILRI
2:15 pm	7:15 am	Meeting objectives	Zeleke Mekuriaw – ILRI, LSIL Country Coordinator
2:20 pm	7:20 am	Key results from Phase I (with Q&A)	Zeleke Mekuriaw
2:40 pm	7:40 am	Research priorities for Phase II (with Q&A)	Saskia Hendrickx
3:00 pm	8:00 am	Adoption pathways and scalability (with Q&A)	Andrea Bohn and Zeleke Mekuriaw
3:20 pm	8:20 am	Local capacity development approach (with Q&A)	Sandra Russo and Nargiza Ludgate
3:40 pm	8:40 am	Next steps, including explanation of eligibility criteria for proposal submission, and closing remarks	Gbola Adesogan

ANNEX

Overview of competitively awarded research projects in Ethiopia in Phase I

The following projects were implemented in Ethiopia during Phase I (2015-2020). Click on the hyperlinks to access each project's webpage, where detailed information about the research team, research design and outputs are available .

- Linking cattle nutrition to human nutrition: a value chain approach to improving the production, handling, and consumption of animal source foods in Ethiopia
- Improving the evidence and policies for better performing livestock systems in Ethiopia
- Addressing young stock mortality in smallholder farms and pastoral herds of Ethiopia
- Improving handling practices and microbiological safety of milk and milk products in Borana pastoral communities, Ethiopia
- The effect of passive surveillance training on animal health parameters, northern Ethiopia
- Mycotoxin prevalence and mitigation measures in Ethiopia
- Application of integrated decision support systems to improve livestock systems in Ethiopia: Research and capacity development
- Modeling livestock system dynamics and economywide policy impacts in Ethiopia
- Feed-to-farm investigation of mycotoxin contamination of feed and milk in Ethiopia

Selected accomplishments in Ethiopia

- Identified insufficient colostrum feeding and parasite infections as leading causes of substantial (i.e., 15-25%) young stock mortality in various production systems in partnership with a government-led consortium and piloted interventions that greatly reduced the problem in all species.
- Highlighted recent dramatic increases in animal-source foods prices and consumption patterns.
- Identified factors enhancing dairy sector productivity such as improved access to livestock services and higher adoption of cross-bred cows.
- Developed improved forage varieties and some improved milk production by cows, and developed food safety practices, and meat processing strategies.
- Examined food safety of yogurt in pastoral communities.
- Improved passive surveillance for livestock diseases using a graphic book that has been translated into all national languages by FAO.
- Mapped the areas suitable for growing irrigated fodder and demonstrated how their adoption could improve nutrition and income.