

FEED THE FUTURE INNOVATION LAB FOR LIVESTOCK SYSTEMS

Invitation to join the Innovation Platform meeting

NEPAL

to be held virtually on March 16, 2021, from 3 to 5 pm Nepal 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 Nepal, USAID/Nepal, 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 16, 2021. 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. V. Padmakumar at V.Padmakumar@cgiar.org with any questions or concerns.

AGENDA (Draft)

Nepal time	EDT	Topic	Speaker, facilitator
3:45 pm	5:00 am	Tech check in and socializing	Andrea Bohn
3:00 pm	5:15 am	Welcome and opening remarks	Gbola Adesogan – Director, Livestock Systems Innovation Lab, UF Representative – USAID/Nepal
3:15 pm	5:30 am	Meeting objectives	V. Padmakumar – ILRI, LSIL Country Coordinator
3:20 pm	5:35 am	Key results from Phase I (with Q&A)	V. Padmakumar
3:40 pm	5:55 am	Research priorities for Phase II (with Q&A)	Saskia Hendrickx
4:00 pm	6:15 am	Adoption pathways and scalability (with Q&A)	Andrea Bohn and V. Padmakumar
4:20 pm	6:35 am	Local capacity development approach (with Q&A)	Sandra Russo and Nargiza Ludgate
4:40 pm	6:55 am	Next steps, including explanation of eligibility criteria for proposal submission, and closing remarks	Gbola Adesogan

ANNEX

Overview of competitively awarded research projects in Nepal in Phase I

- Designing and Evaluating Innovations for Development of Smallholder Female Livestock Cooperatives in Nepal*
- Empowerment of Village Women for Detection and Control of Livestock Diseases in Nepal
- Improving Dairy Animal Productivity and Income of Dairy Farmers through Effective Control of Mastitis Disease
- Feeding Support Tool Development for Enhancing Dairy Animal Productivity for Improved Livelihood of Smallholder Dairy Farmers in Nepal
- Strategies to Increase Milk Consumption Among Children in Rural Nepal
- Community-based Goat Breeding Program for Enhancing Productivity and Livelihood of Smallholder Farmers of Different Agro-Ecological Zones in Nepal

Selected accomplishments in Nepal

- Improved milking practices for dairy animals and reduced mastitis prevalence
- Improved dairy animal feeding with a mobile phone app
- Increased market linkages between female livestock producer cooperatives and traders
- Used distance learning to train 24% more women to become community animal health workers than by typical classroom training
- Trained rural women to become livestock sentries that improve disease surveillance
- Developed national agricultural education policy recommendations to better link research and extension
- Identified barriers to milk consumption in rural households. In collaboration with the Innovation Labs for Post-Harvest Reduction Losses and Nutrition, LSIL also supported research and awareness creation on aflatoxin contamination in feed and ASF, and on the importance of ASF in the diet.