

## FEED THE FUTURE INNOVATION LAB FOR LIVESTOCK SYSTEMS

### Invitation to join the Innovation Platform Meeting

### NIGER

to be held virtually on March 25, 2021, from 1 to 3 pm Niger

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 (October 2015 to September 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 the implementation of the program.

The vision of the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems 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 Niger, USAID/Niger, 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 areas 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 from Phase I. In upcoming months, the Lab will organize several thematic knowledge sharing webinars to showcase research findings. We will invite you to those when more details are available.

We look forward to seeing you on March 25, 2021. Please confirm your interest in participating in the IP meeting by responding to this email [livestock-lab@ufl.edu](mailto:livestock-lab@ufl.edu). And please feel free to reach out to our local coordinator, Dr. Moctar KARIMOU at [karimou@mercycorps.org](mailto:karimou@mercycorps.org) with any questions or concerns.

## AGENDA (Draft)

WAT	EDT	Topic	Speaker, facilitator
12:45 pm	7:45 am	Tech check in and socializing	Andrea Bohn
1:00 pm	8:00 am	Welcome and opening remarks	Gbola Adesogan – Director, Livestock Systems Innovation Lab (LSIL), University of Florida, UF Representative – USAID/Niger
1:15 pm	8:15 am	Meeting objectives	Moctar Karimou – Mercy Corps, LSIL Country Coordinator
1:20 pm	8:20 am	Key results from Phase I (with Q&A)	Moctar Karimou
1:40 pm	8:40 am	Research priorities for Phase II (with Q&A)	Saskia Hendrickx
2:00 pm	9:00 am	Adoption pathways and scalability (with Q&A)	Andrea Bohn and Moctar Karimou
2:20 pm	9:20 am	Local capacity development approach (with Q&A)	Sandra Russo and Nargiza Ludgate
2:40 pm	9:40 am	Next steps, including explanation of eligibility criteria for proposal submission, and closing remarks	Gbola Adesogan

## ANNEX

### Overview of competitively awarded research projects in Niger in Phase I

- Enhancing the productivity of small ruminants through improved and cost-effective feeding and animal health interventions in Burkina Faso and Niger (ENHANCE)
- Enabling value chains to create sustainable income for vulnerable people in crop-livestock systems of Burkina Faso and Niger

### Selected accomplishments in Niger

LSIL research focused on increasing ASF production by improved feeding, health and marketing and providing evidence to inform policy making.

For Niger, research findings include:

- 1) enhanced small ruminant productivity with high yield and quality improved forage species and improved technologies. Trials on performance of six millet varieties identified ICMV167005 as having the highest grain and stover yield and it was the most preferred by participating farmers. A subsequent feeding trial showed that this variety produced the greatest growth in goats relative to the others;
- 2) expanded market access for feed traders between Maradi and Torodi resulting in trading of approximately 12.6 tons of feed valued at \$US 3,600 within four months;
- 3) increased participation of women in selling small ruminants and in income generating activities;
- 4) increased household income through the sales of better quality animals through small ruminant fattening;
- 5) demonstrated through policy analysis that Niger has shown good progress in the control of animal diseases.

In January 2020, LSIL faculty also hosted a policy round table discussion and a related future livestock systems scenario workshop. These two events fostered productive discussions regarding existing and future livestock scenarios and related policies.