

FEED THE FUTURE INNOVATION LAB FOR LIVESTOCK SYSTEMS

Invitation to join the Innovation Platform meeting

RWANDA

to be held virtually on March 31, 2021, from 2 to 4 pm Rwanda 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 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 Rwanda, USAID/Rwanda, 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 local solid developmental impacts.

The main purpose of this year's virtual Innovation Platform 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 31, 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, Felix Ngamije at +250 788 308670 or fngamije2005@gmail.com with any questions or concerns.

AGENDA (Draft)

Rwanda time	EDT	Topic	Speaker, facilitator
1:45 pm	7:45 am	Tech check in and socializing	Andrea Bohn
2:00 pm	8:00 am	Welcome and opening remarks	Gbola Adesogan – Director, Livestock Systems Innovation Lab, University of Florida, UF Amy Beeler – Director, Economic Growth Office, USAID/Rwanda
2:15 pm	8:15 am	Meeting objectives	Felix Ngamije – LSIL Country Coordinator
2:20 pm	8:20 am	Key results from Phase I (with Q&A)	Felix Ngamije
2:40 pm	8:40 am	Research priorities for Phase II (with Q&A)	Saskia Hendrickx
3:00 pm	9:00 am	Adoption pathways and scalability (with Q&A)	Andrea Bohn and Felix Ngamije
3:20 pm	9:20 am	Local capacity development approach (with Q&A)	Sandra Russo and Nargiza Ludgate
3:40 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 Rwanda in Phase I

- [Enhancing Milk Quality and Consumption for Improved Income and Nutrition in Rwanda*](#)
- [Assessment and Mitigation of Aflatoxin and Fumonisin Contamination in Animal Feeds in Rwanda](#)
- [Milk Production Practices, Udder Health and their Impact on Milk Quality, Safety and Processability in Rwanda](#)
- [Challenges of Implementing Modern Milk Quality Standards in Developing Countries: Case of Rwanda](#)
- [Rwanda Enhancement for Enabling Policy Support to the Dairy Sector](#)
- [Aflatoxin Mitigation through Education, Intervention, and Policy in Rwandan Dairy Products](#)
- [Engaging Men in Supporting Maternal and Child Consumption of Milk and other Animal-Source Foods in Rwanda](#)

Selected accomplishments in Rwanda

- Examined how ASF behavior change messaging influences maternal and infant health. Combining the Girinka program with a social behavior change intervention involving training on the importance of milk in the diet resulted in a trend towards increased frequency of milk consumption.

The positive impact of Girinka program on child milk consumption and household food security was significant for households with relatively larger livestock herd size (> 1 tropical livestock units) and land size more than 0.1 acres

- improved performance of 20 dairy cooperatives in financial management, governance and operations;
- Improved milk quality, production practices and udder health by controlling mastitis at the farm level
- Examined effects of existing policies on the dairy sector
- Improved feed safety through aflatoxin assessment and mitigation.

To follow up the latter, we hosted a national level stakeholder meeting in March 2019 in collaboration with the Feed the Future Rwanda Hinga Weze Activity to discuss aflatoxin prevention and control strategies. The meeting triggered the activation of a taskforce that has been implementing some of the recommendations.