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

Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems

INNOVATION SUMMARY:

BEST PRACTICES TO ENHANCE THE MICROBIOLOGICAL QUALITY & SAFETY OF MILK & YOGHURT

The innovation entails best practices for storing milk or yoghurt to safeguard food safety. It was developed by comparing food-borne pathogen loads associated with various traditional and alternative milk storage containers and methods of cleaning them. It combines best types of and cleaning practices for milk storage containers to improve milk quality and safety and safeguard the health of livestock keepers and consumers.

INNOVATION QUICK FACTS

Lead Implementing Institution: Addis Ababa University/ILRI

Category: Cultural Practice

Applied in: Ethiopia

Innovation Type: Practice

New/Adapted: New

Created for: Mainly Women

Nutrition Linkage: Food Safety

THE PROBLEM & ITS IMPORTANCE

Milk production in Ethiopia and other East African countries is a large and growing industry due to the nutritional benefits. Pastoral women in Ethiopia are typically in charge of yoghurt production from milk, and they store milk in traditional wooden containers and use smoke to clean them, but little is known about the safety of the yoghurt. Unhygienic milk can harbor a variety of foodborne pathogens and consequently cause diseases in humans pasteurization.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS

This innovation combines information on ideal milk storage and cleaning practices that minimize foodborne-disease risks while contributing to food security and improved nutrition for livestock keepers and consumers. To develop the innovation effects of smoking method, smoke source (wood type) and container type (traditional versus stainless steel) on coliform bacteria counts significantly in yoghurt were compared. The innovation can be used to improve awareness about the need for hygienic milk and to promote behavior change to improve milk safety.

APPLICATION OF THE INNOVATION

The resources needed to apply this innovation are training and knowledge dissemination on safe milk production and handling practices. While this research was conducted in the Borana region of Ethiopia, the innovation can be adopted by other regions and production systems. An important consideration is the roles women and men play in the production of milk and milk products. In Borana, women were mainly targeted as they manage the production of milk and milk products. Before applying the innovation an in-depth gender analysis is recommended to ensure implementation of the innovation in a gender-sensitive manner.

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