Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems

INNOVATION SUMMARY:
TRAINING APPROACH TO STRENGTHEN DETECTION OF PUBLIC GOOD LIVESTOCK DISEASES

The innovation is an adult learning training approach that improves the capacity and awareness of farmers and veterinarians to identify, realize the economic implications of, treat, and report public and private good livestock diseases. The training is coupled with a field manual to help recognize and control diseases. Ultimately, diffusion of the training will lead to increased community involvement in disease reporting, which will help prevent and control public and private good livestock diseases.

INNOVATION QUICK FACTS

Lead Implementing Institution: University of Georgia

Category: Disease Management

Innovation Type: Approach

Created for: Women & Men

Applied in: Ethiopia

New/Adapted: Adapted

Nutrition Linkage: Dietary Quality

THE PROBLEM & ITS IMPORTANCE

Disease surveillance systems in low and middle income countries are often underdeveloped, constraining livestock production and decreasing income for farmers. Governments are responsible for controlling the "public good diseases", which have socioeconomic impacts on the country due to their rapid spread, necessitating trade restrictions. Early notification of these serious diseases is important, to allow government services to provide early mitigation. Ensuring farmers and veterinarians understand the functioning of the government animal disease reporting system and how they can contribute to it will ultimately help reduce the livestock disease burden in the country.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS

Training of smallholder farmers and veterinarians (civil servants and private practitioners) on public good livestock disease identification and reporting is important to prevent losses in livestock productivity, decrease disease outbreaks, and mortality, while allowing for more targeted responses by the veterinary services to disease incidences. This will allow more effective use of the limited resources available for disease surveillance in low and middle income countries, thereby ultimately improving the health of livestock populations, producer incomes, and food safety through consumption of safer livestock products.

APPLICATION OF THE INNOVATION

This innovation can be applied within and beyond target countries by training farmers and veterinarians to identify and report public and private good livestock disease syndromes. Trainings should include biosecurity measures to reduce the spread of livestock diseases and they can be adapted and tailored to different production settings and geographies. The measures taught are easy to use and require few inputs. The involvement of farmers and public and private veterinarians in disease reporting will benefit local, regional, and national economies and improve food security. Adopters can use the Livestock Production Disease field manual developed during the initial research project to help livestock producers identify the presence of livestock disease and assess the need for veterinary assistance.

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