



## Feed-to-farm investigation of mycotoxin contamination of feed and milk in Ethiopia

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### Principal Investigator

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- Mr. Zelalem Abebe, Veterinary Drug and Animal Feed Administration and Control Authority (VDAFACA), Ethiopia
- Mr. Moti Cheru, formerly VDAFACA

### Objectives

- 1) Survey and examine mycotoxin contamination of feed used in dairy production and of milk samples.
- 2) Investigate the source of mycotoxin contamination along the oil-seed cake livestock feed chain (farm-to-milk) to provide insight into the specific stages of production that are likely to be associated with the contamination of livestock feed.

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## Introduction

- Mycotoxins in livestock feeds have been identified as a risk factor in the production of livestock, due to the potential for adverse health effects for livestock and human beings.
- Known high prevalence of aflatoxin in oil-seed cake but little known about the actual sources along the farm to milk chain.

## Methods

1. Literature review of common feed sources used in dairy production.
2. On-farm assessments and personal interviews with farmers, to create baseline information on farmer's awareness of the risks of mycotoxin contamination of feed and milk for human and animal health.
3. Create a baseline data for mycotoxins, with particular emphasis of aflatoxins, in feeds and in milk on farms.
4. Survey and investigate the source of mycotoxins along the oil-seed cake livestock feed chain (farm-to-milk) in Ethiopia.
5. Short-term training to project participants with special attention to participation of women.

VDAFACA experts were trained on mycotoxin risks in animal feed, toxicological risk assessment and food risk management using the Hazard Assessment and Critical Control Point (HACCP) approach.



## Results

- Literature review is complete
- Ongoing capacity development for Veterinary Drug and Animal Feed Administration and Control Authority (VDAFACA) staff
- The shortterm training also covered feed and material sampling, processing, and handling. It took place in Bishoftu, Debre Zeyt from March 3-5, 2020.
- Trainees: 25 VDAFACA experts, of which 3 were females.
- The technical training was presented by Dr. Deon van der Merwe in coordination with Mr. Moti Cheru, Carl Birkelo and Yacob Zereyesus.

## Challenges

- Covid-19 related mobility and import restrictions impact further training, sampling, lab analysis