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Ethiopian Society of Animal Production

Ethiopia Launched National Livestock Development Project (NLDP)

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Highlights

Ethiopia launched a seven year National Livestock Development Project worth US $ 32.22 million in July 1999. This project generally envisaged to contribute to food security, poverty alleviation and the country's foreign exchange earnings with a major objective of achieving sustainable increases in livestock household incomes through; increased livestock productivity by strengthening cross breeding activities, creation of livestock disease diagnostic and control capacity, supply of improved forages to producers and strengthen previously implemented livestock project activities. The project was designed to have four components to meet these objectives, i.e. Livestock Production Improvement Support, Animal Health, Forage Development and Project Coordination and Management. This project has been operational in all nine Regional States and two city Administrations Agricultural and Rural Development Bureaus of the country, National Artificial Insemination Center (NAIC), National Veterinary Institute (NVI) and related departments of MOA & RD.

Major Activities

Livestock Production- activities under this category included; strengthen and improve the capacity of National Artificial Insemination Centre (NAIC), establish Seven AI sub centers in different regional state, establish a bull- dam farm at Holleta, procurement of 200 mini-dairy milk units to be distributed to regions, offer training (AI technicians, livestock staffs and farmers in technical and management areas) and initiate a milk recording scheme with provision of essential equipment at NAIC, Oromia, Amhara, SNNP and Tigray regions.

Animal Health- components covered here encompass; upgrading animal health information system and establishing an emergency contingency plan, strengthening disease surveillance and diagnostic capabilities of regional laboratories through rehabilitation of existing nine regional laboratories and construction of three new veterinary laboratories, controlling PPR/CCPP diseases of small ruminants through strengthening National Veterinary Institute to produce PPR/CCPP vaccine, establishing National Veterinary Products Quality Control Laboratory, promote livestock certification and export through establishment of three quarantine stations and four check points and train technical staff and farmers.

Forage Production – focuses here consisted of; encouraging intensive forage development activities in smallholder fattening and dairy production areas, support gradual withdrawal of government services from forage seed production and distribution, develop capacity to produce large quantities of perennial legume seeds with smallholder farmers on contract basis, support the establishment of forage seed producers association and training for staff and farmers

Program Management- coordinates all procurement and civil works, expedites loan disbursement and effect payments for goods and services, and arranges training for staff both locally and overseas. Project management was basically effected through existing line departments in the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and Regional Agricultural Bureaus. A Central Coordinating Unit and a Project Steering Committee were established to oversee and coordinate the project implementation.

In this issue:

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Major Achievements

During the last six years of implementation, the following achievements have been gained:

Training - 93 animal production, 63 animal health professions from the Federal in various fields (37 are veterinarians and 26 assistance veterinarians in meat inspection) and 85 regional professionals in forage development have been trained in short-terms abroad. Locally, 455 AI technicians were trained at NAIC, Amhara, Oromia and SNNP. 13 LN operators were trained for 3 months, 8 field staff were trained in milk technology at ILRI, 29 staff members were trained as trainers in AI, while 7,051 farmers were trained in animal production. 126 regional, 266 zonal, 2,716 wereda staff and 6,490 development agents and 63,592 farmers have participated in forage development training. 108 veterinary laboratory technicians were trained in laboratory techniques. In addition, 52 field staff undertook training in emergency preparedness, another 534 staff in animal health information and emergency preparedness while 1,789 farmers were trained as community animal health workers.

Civil Works- one National Bull Dam Farm was established at Holetta with strengthened construction of perimeter fence, feed mix plant and machinery shade. Construction works of the three regional laboratories, three quarantine stations and 4 check points are underway with about 70-90% completion of the work while check points at Bole, Teferi-Ber and Aisha are fully completed. The final draft design, for quality control laboratory, is completed and submitted to the Ministry of Infrastructure (MOI) for approval. Constructions of NAIC Complex, three Regional AI sub-sub centers (Amhara, Oromia, and SNNP) are under progress while the construction in Oromia (Assela) is completed. The construction of AI Sub-center in Tgray is in the stage of advertisement.

Procurements- purchased items with funding from this project include; Set of equipment for establishment modern Semen processor laboratory at NAIC, eight Liquid Nitrogen (LN) plants were purchased and made operational at NAIC, Bahr Dar, Desie, Asella, Nekamte Wolaita Sodo, Hareri and Mekele, 200 sets of small-scale milk collection & processing equipment are purchased and distributed to regions, 19 four-wheel drive vehicles and 450 motors were purchased and distributed to regions, 13 complete set of veterinary laboratory equipment for 10 existing and 3 new regional veterinary laboratories were purchased and are operational, Set of modern equipment for PPR/CCP vaccine production were purchased for NVI, and made operational. Studies results on AI, forage development, PPR/CCPP, M& E and cost recovery strategy is complete.

Research Programme on Sustainable Use of Dry-lands Biodiversity (RPSUD)

Alemayehu Mengistu [1]

Background

The RPSUD was born out of overall national, regional and global research for sustainable natural resources management, following campaigns about the state of dry land biodiversity, concerns that heightened at the global summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. The focus on Eastern Africa sub- region emerged at a regional conference that was attended by representatives of Community Institutions, Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs), Government Agencies, Regional and International Bodies held at the National Museums of Kenya (NMK), in 1993.

Arising from this regional conference, negotiations between SIDA/SAREC and participating institutions in the sub-region led by the National Museums of Kenya (NMK), University of Dar-es-Salaam (UDSM)-Tanzania, Addis Ababa University (AAU) and the Institute of Biodiversity Conservation (IBC) of Ethiopia, resulted in the formation of the Research Programme on Sustainable Use of Dry-land Biodiversity (RPSUD), as a sub- regional network. The NMK was assigned the lead implementing role and focal point for regional co-ordination of the programme, managed by an Executive Council, whose members are drawn from member countries. Accordingly, an agreement was signed between SIDA and the NMK in 1995 for the first phase of this initiative that covered a-three-year period, 1995-1998, followed by a second phase from 2001 to 2004/2005. The programme manages a recipient- driven undertaking on training, capacity building, a small research grant facility and an information dissemination forum.

The past Achievements and Challenges of RPSUD

Small Research Grant Support-RPSUD has awarded a total of 48 grants ranging from US$ 7,500 -15,000 each from 1997 to 2004. Investigations under this activity have covered work on the development of indigenous knowledge; Ethno-biology; Biodiversity assessment, Management and conservation; Biodiversity use in Livelihood support and development. The results of the research effort are circulated through RPSUD newsletter, scientific publications, proceedings, terminal reports and more recently in the website.

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MSc. Training Programme- Addis Ababa University is facilitating the MSc Programme. It has developed a tailor- cut curriculum based on - sub- regional dry-land biodiversity challenges. Over 50 graduates have been trained through coursework and thesis on dry-land biodiversity. By facilitating graduates to carry out thesis research in home countries, the programme is concomitantly able to contribute to a national research agenda and priorities. This strategy has led to an enhanced delivery of research results on biology and ecology of plants and animals, range management, indigenous knowledge, and farm forestry. The Prgramme has enabled a number of dry-land biodiversity scientists from the sub-region to plan and work together in the conception and analysis of problems and constraints to sustainable management of natural resources and development of a common research strategy.

Networking and Outreach- RPSUD reaches stakeholders and constituencies through annual workshops and a biannual newsletter, annual proceedings and terminal reports. The annual workshop is held alternately in member counties, as a strategy to promote contact and exchange with national scientists and natural resources managers. This vehicle further supports the network task for effective scientific writing, communication, and exchanges of experiences. In addition, the network has organized a scientific writing training workshop that has led to a noticeable rise in the number of publications from the sub-region in refereed journals. To promote networking, the RPSUD has opened a website and an interactive database for free and effective exchange of information and experiences within and between countries in the sub-region (www.rpsud.org). The network is currently posting relevant published and postgraduate whole thesis and abstracts on dry-land biodiversity research on the website.

RPSUD's Future Strategic Focus- its strategic vision is to be a leader in the promotion of sustainable natural resource management for improved livelihoods of the dry-land communities of the Eastern Africa sub- region with a clear mission of contributing to sustainable management, development and utilization of the dry-land resources through generation promotion and enhancement of client-oriented dry-land biodiversity technologies, capacity and information sharing. It is operating with a targeted goal of contributing to improved livelihoods of the dry-land communities of the Eastern African sub-region via generating client-oriented dry-land biodiversity technologies, capacity building and information sharing. The participating countries (Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania) will lead and facilitate the implementation of the trust and interventions (promote sustainable dry-land natural resource-based enterprises, develop dry-land NRM strategies, biodiversity research & capacity building, promote institutions & social capital and enhance access to knowledge and information).

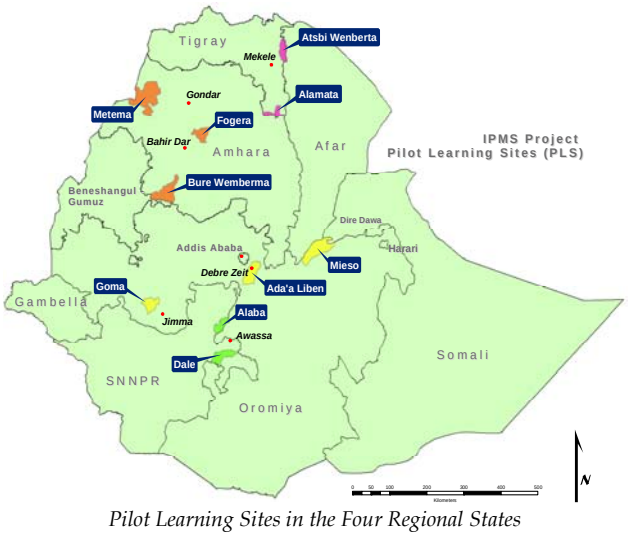
IMPROVING PRODUCTIVITY & MARKET SUCCESS OF ETHIOPIAN FARMERS

Azage Tegegne [1]

Background

In Ethiopia, more than 80% of the estimated 73 million people depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. The sector contributes close to 50% of the Gross Domestic Product of the country. However, average cereal yields are low, generally less than a ton per hectare. Livestock productivity is lower than most other countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The use of improved agricultural technologies is limited. As a result, average per capita income is estimated at USD 100 per annum, with about 45% of the rural population living on income below the poverty line of one USD per day. Many rural families suffer from chronic food insecurity and are extremely vulnerable during periodic drought. Inefficient and inappropriate use of soil, water and vegetation contribute to degradation of the natural resource base.

The level and speed of economic development in Ethiopia is heavily influenced by sustained growth in agriculture. Sustained agricultural growth requires increased availability of technologies, farm inputs and services on the one hand, and sustained demand for the agricultural outputs on the other. These forward and backward linkages of agricultural production are captured in the concept of an agri-food chain, which can be seen as the institutional linkage



Pilot Learning Sites in the Four Regional States

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between producers, processors, marketers and distributors, which are often separated by space and time. The agri-food chain is made up of several interconnected components. These components include the development and availability of farm inputs and technology, the agricultural production process, harvesting, storage, processing, marketing and distribution. Bringing integrated improvements in the components of the agri-food chain serves as a conceptual basis of the IPMS Project.

Project Inception

In June 2002, the then Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) convened a workshop on *Poverty Reduction through Transforming Smallholder Systems from Subsistence to Market Oriented* at the Addis Ababa campus of the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI). This workshop and follow-up discussions by MoA, ILRI and others determined that lack of access to existing scientific know-ledge by farmers and extension/ development agents had resulted in non-utilization of innovations already 'on the shelf' to improve rural livelihoods.

In January 2003, the Government of Ethiopia requested Canada to support its poverty-reduction efforts through a project to improve the productivity and market success of smallholder farmers. As part of this process, the Ethiopian Ministries of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED) and Agriculture (MoA) agreed that the best way to accelerate nationwide economic growth was to enable more farmers to participate in markets and to get more existing agricultural knowledge and technologies into the hands of Ethiopia's small-scale farmers. Simultaneously, the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) recognizes that such a strategy has to take into consideration gender, HIV/AIDS and the environment.

Project Summary

Based on these general principles, a project proposal was prepared by ILRI in collaboration with other CGIAR centers and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MoARD) to be implemented in four Regional States, i.e. Amhara, Oromiya, SNNP and Tigray. Subsequently, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) signed a Contribution Agreement (CA) with ILRI for this 5–year project on June 18, 2004. The project has four main objectives and outcome:

Objective 1: To develop an agricultural knowledge management system that will enable Ethiopian institutions, farmers and pastoralists to adopt appropriate technologies from research and development institutions based in Ethiopia and elsewhere.

Outcome 1: Functional agricultural knowledge management system interconnected and utilized at all levels, highlighting innovations and appropriate technologies.

Objective 2: To build and strengthen existing institutional capacity and foster institutional learning and change so that new collaborative arrangements across sectors and levels are developed to better support the dissemination, use and impact of demand-driven sustainable agricultural technologies & information.

Outcome 2: Strengthened institutional capacity of agriculture and natural resource management (NRM) public organizations to support the development of farmer-based, market-oriented agricultural production systems.

Objective 3: To increase the capacity of farmers, pastoralists, community-based organizations, and private organizations for enhanced technology up-take by farmers and pastoralists

Outcome 3: Enhanced capacity of farmers, pastoralists, community-based organizations (CBOs), and private organizations to improve agricultural productivity and production, and to improve and sustain livelihoods through the adoption of strategies, technologies, and processes developed in their respective Pilot Learning Sites.

Objective 4: To develop recommendations, policy options and strategies to enhance the impact of public policies and programs.

Outcome 4: Recommendations (strategies, policies, technology options and institutional innovations) developed from both research and lessons learned.

Following the signing of the agreement, the project was officially launched on June 30, 2004 at the ILRI campus by the State Minster of Agriculture and Rural Development H.E Ato Belay Ejigu. This event was embedded into a technology exhibition and a project launching workshop. In the technology exhibition, EARO, RARIs, IARCs, Regional Technology Multiplication Centers, NGO's and private sector participants displayed potential technologies and innovative input supply and marketing approaches. Furthermore, strategic development plans for priority crop and livestock commodities prepared by the MoARD as well as the IPMS project concept and implementation principles were presented and discussed in working groups.

Based on these general guidelines, the project started with the formation of Regional Advisory and Learning Committees (RALCs), and the selection of potential Pilot Learning Sites (PLS) in each of the four Regional States and establishment of Woreda Advisory and Learning Committees (WALCs). This was followed by a national PLS selection meeting in which members of the project implementation committee and regional representatives and representatives of national and international centers (based in Addis) were present to finalize the selection of the PLSes. The meeting was also used to discuss procedures for the development of programs for the PLS

with the main institutional stakeholders and beneficiaries. Soon after that, programs for each PLS were then developed with the help of Woreda staff, members of the project implementation committee and regional and international partners. At the end of each study period, a workshop was held with the major stakeholders including men and women farmers.

A number of one-on-one and group consultations were held with the members of the project implementation stakeholders (the extension department, TVETs & FTC programs coordinators, ICT and knowledge management unit, and the planning department) and representatives from the national and international research community.

The following list shows the preliminary list of priority commodities for each of the selected pilot learning site.

Region	PLS	Commodities
Amhara	Fogera	Rice, chick peas, Noug, vegetables (onion, pepper, tomato, garlic), cattle (butter, beef) hide & skin, fish, apiculture, horticulture, poultry
	Metema	Cattle (beef, butter), Ship/goats (meat), sesame, cotton, vegetable (banana, mango, papaya) rice
	Bure-Wonberma	Wheat, highland pulses, apiculture, oil crops, pepper
SNNP	Dale	Garden coffee, haricot beans, fruit crops (avocado, banana, mango, pineapple, papaya), vegetable (onion), ginger, ship/goats (meat), cattle (milk, butter), skins and hides, poultry
	Alaba	Teff, wheat, haricot bean, hot pepper, cattle (butter), small ruminants, poultry, apiculture
Oromiya	Mieso	Haricot beans, sesame, cattle (milk, beef), goats
	Gomma	Forest coffee, fruit crops, apiculture, spices, vegetables
	Ada'a-Liben	Teff, wheat, chickpea, lentils, horticultural crops (onions, tomato, cabbage), cattle (milk, butter, beef), small ruminants (meat), poultry
Tigray	Atsbi	Chick peas, faba beans, field peas, lentils, Fruit crops (apple, grape vine, mango, orange, papaya, pear, plum,), vegetables (cabbage, garlic, onion, pepper, tomato, spinach), cattle (butter), small ruminants (meat), apiculture, apiculture-queen rearing
	Alamata	Haricot beans, sesame, cotton, Fruit trees (avocado, mango, papaya), Vegetables (onion, tomato, pepper) Cattle (beef, butter) small ruminants (meat), hides & skins, poultry

The project is currently implementing the program of work identified for the first year of the project (2005). At the time of this writing, the project is about to commence on baseline data collection in 8 Pilot Learning Sites. Furthermore, targeted capacity building activities pertaining to farmers, agri-service providers, and institutional staff at PLSes, are underway. Proposed plan for the development of a knowledge management system at the Federal level has been submitted to MoARD. Project related documentation and resource materials can be accessed at the project website: -- http://www.ipms-ethiopia.org.

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Research and Development Issues in Livestock Presented in a Workshop

Tesfaye Kumsa[1]

Introduction- under the current scenario of fast growing population, non-sustainable use of natural resources and increasing poverty and ecological degradation, ensuring food security for the nation has now become a night mare. The need for re-examining the agricultural sector, as a major economic engine, to bring about changes that could pull the country out of this dilemma is timely today than ever before. Diagnosis towards this end must necessarily involve a dialogue among, policy makers, researchers, higher learning institutions, public and NGOs engaged in development activities and all relevant civic societies in a common forum. To serve as a starting ground for such forum issues in livestock development and research have been reviewed and presented to the Second Annual Workshop of the Ethiopian Association of Agricultural Professionals (EAAP) held on 22 April 2005 at EARO's HQs in Addis Ababa. The paper was presented under the title of "Issues relating to food security in the livestock industry in Ethiopia: Assessment of past and current status and future prospects".

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Synopsis of the paper

The mixed crop/livestock highland production system- this system in the country at present is characterized by serious farmland shortage, severe resource degradation, depleted soil fertility, low crop and livestock productivities and rampant distribution of poverty. The contribution from the livestock sub-sector to the food security of smallholder farms households in this production system is highly constrained by poor stock productivity (low growth rates, high mortality, poor reproduction and production performances, low genetic endowment for economically important production and reproduction traits). Poor performances are reflections of inadequate feeding, health care, genetic improvement and generally lack of improved management practices. The research and extension system have not yet aggressively been able to transform the traditional subsistent-oriented livestock production into market-oriented based production system. Development policies in this connection have not gone off papers and failed to develop effective implementation strategies that bring practical solution to problems at farm levels. The complexity of the problems at the smallholder farm usually emerges as a result of interactions from technical, social and economical factors that need the integration of multi-sectors/institutions to understand it properly and bring about long lasting effective solutions. The piecemeal approach so far pursued failed to produce sustained positive effect that could enhance development to the benefit of the producers. Viewed from increasingly diminishing farm size including pasture land per household, the biggest policy challenge is how to reconcile the need for increased crop production to meet growing food demands emerging from booming human population, the reducing number of livestock population and the implications on household food security. Environmental degradation as a result of human, crop and livestock interactions add another dimension to this challenge. Experiences from countries in other parts of the globe show a guided intensification in the crop and livestock production systems is a solution to get out of this dilemma. This calls for a formulation of a well-thought development strategy that can efficiently mobilize appropriate policy environment, effective research and extension systems with all essential components in place and commit them to bringing changes in the lives of the poor farmers.

Pastoral and agro-pastoral production systems- these systems are constrained by arrays of policy, technical and socio-economic factors that hamper the development and exploitation of the tremendous accumulation of wealth existing in these production systems. Overcoming challenges relating to; water shortage, market inefficiency, improvement in rangeland ecology and management, appropriate technology to combat bush encroachment, strengthened extension services with particular emphasis to animal health, empowerment of traditional institutions for range and water resource management, population pressure, development of off-farm job opportunity, provision of effective drought prediction services and drought coping mechanism are few among areas requiring urgent attention to improve the productivity of these systems and increase their contribution to the national economy and welfare of the communities residing in them. Reconciling competitions between crop production and livestock grazing for wetlands during the dry spell, enhancing small-scale irrigation development scheme and intensifying works on development of moisture stress-tolerant crop varieties are further concerns in the agro-pastoral areas.

Issues relating to major economically important livestock commodities-the dairy industry in the country by and large depend on low-producing indigenous cattle breeds kept under low-input traditional systems. Since smallholder producers own only 25 % of the total improved herd in the country, the share of improved breeds to the total milk production from the traditional sector is 1.2 %. Informal dairy marketing channels contribute around 88 % to the total marketed dairy products. Total milk production grew at annual rate of 1.6 % only while per capita production dropped by an annual rate 0.84 % between 1961 and 2000. These attest to the fact that there is yet a long way ahead before the country develops a strong dairy industry. To enhance effective development; the overwhelming majority of farmers keeping low producing genotypes must be assisted through strong collective actions from policy, research and extension to maximize milk production through enhanced interventions targeting improvements in feeding, health and marketing. Those in favorable market and climatic locations should be given the opportunity of getting easy access to crossbred cows and high grade animals with all the necessary packages including strengthened and focused public extension services.

Ample opportunities exist in the country for the development of the meat industry due to fast growing domestic and export markets. Current estimated annual off take of 10%, 35 %, 38%, and 6.5 %, respectively for cattle, sheep, goats and camel are far lagging behind potential demands. Projection studies indicate that between 2003 and 2007 the pastoral areas are capable of producing about 753 thousand cattle, 2.3 million sheep, 5.5 million goats and 79 thousand camels to domestic and export markets. Despite such potential, the production areas are severely stifled by; low productivity, high prevalence of diseases causing substantial morbidity and mortality rates and export ban, weak extension and technological support, poorly development market infrastructure, frequent drought and absence of effective prediction and copping mechanism.

Besides dairy and meat production from large ruminants, the country's diverse climatic and genetic resource endowment creates favorable potential for the production of poultry, fish and honey. Because of their

economic scale of operation, these commodities make a significant contribution in income generation and job creation beyond meeting the protein and energy demands of poor households. Women and children, who are commonly the most economically vulnerable members of the family to the debilitating effects of rural poverty due to lack of access to means of income generation, particularly benefit from poultry keeping. Full-fledged exploitation of poultry, fishery and apiculture in the country is, however, generally throttled by; inadequate knowledge of the resources, lack of proper characterization, utilization and conservation strategies of these resources, weak concerted policy, extension and technological inputs, under-developed private sector and dependence on low input traditional production systems.

Non-edible outputs from the livestock sub-sector such as farm power for land cultivation, crop threshing, transportation of humans and goods and manure for organic fertilizer and fuel play a crucial economic role in the lives of the many agricultural-based Ethiopian communities. Improved uses of these outputs are limited by lack of strategies geared towards tailoring improvement programs of the different indigenous livestock species to varying farm functions, failure to develop farm implements that increase efficiency of work under varying performance conditions, inadequate inputs for improving the production, reproduction, feeding and health situations of the animals for enhanced overall productivity. Improvements in the collection, storage and transportation, in case of manure, need further attention.

Today challenges of feeding an ever growing population has become a formidable task confronting the Ethiopian public and Government. The depletion of the natural resources and the resultant climatic changes for the worst scenario add further dimension to these challenge. Opportunities are ample in the livestock industry to meet these challenges provided appropriate actions are taken. The country is endowed with; large livestock resources, water bodies, diversified agro-ecologies with variations in farming systems offering immense prospects that remain unexploited. Failure to exploit these resources, so far arises, from complex interactions of dependence on low output and subsistence-oriented traditional production systems, policy neglect to formulate appropriate develop strategies, inadequate research and extension services to bring positive changes in the productivity of the industry and poorly developed infrastructure and market networks.

Regional Workshop Held on Hides and Skins

Tesfaye Kumsa[1]

Introduction- The Leather and Leather Products Institute (LLPI) of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), held a three day Regional Workshop. The workshop was organized as a collaborative venture between COMESA/LLPI and ILRI and took place 18-20 April 2005 in Addis Ababa at ILRI's campus. The purpose of the workshop was to address issues relating to pre-slaughter defects of hides and skins. The specific theme for the workshop has been "Pre-slaughter defects of hides and skins and intervention options in East Africa: Harnessing the leather industry to benefit the poor

Synopsis of the Workshop

The workshop was structured into opening sessions, selected and country paper presentations, working group sessions, working group presentations, intermittent discussions in between the various sessions, synthesis and prioritization of viable interventions and a visit to LLPI's facilities. Six selected papers addressing issues associated with the different components of the theme for the workshop have been presented. Seven countries (Ethiopia, Burundi, Djibouti, Kenya, Sudan, Uganda and Rwanda) presented papers on pre-slaughter hide and skin situations of their respective countries.

Defects in hides and skins can be inflicted at pre-slaughter, during slaughter and post slaughter. Pre-slaughter defects attribute to intrinsic (Breed, sex and age), husbandry (intensive, extensive, commercial, and subsistence), disease (viral, bacterial, parasitic, and allergies) and Physical/mechanical (eternal damage) factors. During slaughter usually named peri-slaughter defects are caused by slaughter (bleeding), dressing (ripping and flaying damage) and physical/mechanical (handling and storage) factors. Post slaughter defects are associated with preservation (autolysis, drying and salting) and transportation (abrasion, contamination and adulteration) as well as storage (pests and moulds) factors. Pre-slaughter defects may account as high as 65 percent compared to 20 and 15 percent of peri- and post-slaughter defects, respectively. In Ethiopia, for instance, a quarter to one third of all skins undergoing processing in the tanneries turn out to be unfit for export markets due mainly to pre-slaughter inflicted defects.

Improvements in quality of hides and skins through reduction of these defects will add values to raw and semi-processed products with substantially increased returns to producers and processors.

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In spite of possessing 19 % of the world's livestock resources, Africa produces only 14 % of hides and skins and less than 3 % of leather product outputs. The quality of hides and skins in African countries is generally poor due to factors relating to poor husbandry practices, i.e. poor nutrition, prolonged longevity and mechanical damages from branding, diseases and pests and bush thorn scratches. As a result of these defects, the annual economic loss incurred is in billions of dollars as foreign exchanges. The fact that many of these defects are not apparent until the raw material has been processed makes pre-screening absolutely ineffective. Poor qualities in African hides and skins are big economic menace and require technical, cultural and socio-economic changes to reverse the situation. Impacts of breeds, nutrition, traditional cultural practices and disease under varying production setups need to be assessed thoroughly and community awareness creation promotion works on quality production of hides and skins strengthened.

Alemaya University, Yesterday, Today and the Future: Excerpts from the 50th Anniversary

Kassahun Awigichew[1]

Alemaya was born at the then Jimma Agricultural and Technical School in the year 1952 through the US technical assistance agreement and under the auspices of the then Oklahoma A & M College. The Alamaya University came into being with its maiden name as College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts in 1954.
At the beginning, Alemaya was training professionals in very limited fields of agriculture. Currently, however, it trains students in various fields of natural and social sciences up to PhD level. The University has now campuses in Dire Dawa, Harar and Jijiga. The program commenced in 1953/54 academic year with 14 students in Jimma. These students were then moved to the then Imperial Ethiopian College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts at Alemaya in their fourth and final year. Eleven of the fourteen students graduated in 1958 with B.Sc. degree in General Agriculture. Although its development has been gradual quite for a substantial period of its existence, the University has now transformed itself vertically as well as horizontally into a big establishment and currently is absorbing over 10,000 students annually.

In May 1985 the College was upgraded to a University level and renamed as Alemaya University of Agriculture. In 1996 the University became a multidisciplinary institution and the term "Agriculture" was dropped from its name to be renamed again as Alemaya University.

In the last 50 years, 14152 professionals have graduated with Terminal, Second and First degrees and diplomas in Agriculture, Home Economics, Forestry, Teachers Education, Health Science, Accounting and Management.

During its existence, the University had its ups and downs. Brain drain of its staff members, the closure of the Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Engineering Departments, the disappearance of Lake Alemaya from its side are just a few to mention. However, despite all this the University has done and is doing a commendable job not only in training professionals but also in development extension works in the region.

There is also strong effort to cop with the influx of students intake. Students are currently housed in make shift dormitories taking on average 26 students in a room. This has to be improved if a healthy educational environment is sought. Although it is not possible to bring the standard of the lodging and Cafeteria to that of the sixties and early seventies, there has to be at least a modest improvement in the quality of the services.

Despite the difficulties, Alemaya University has strongly committed itself to increase student intake capacity and diversification of postgraduate programs in different areas of specialization in line with the Governments Educational development plan and in accordance with its mission and objectives. It has been playing a leading role in producing trained agricultural humanpower that the country needed, and also carrying out research on pertinent agricultural problems. Graduates of the University are playing a significant role in national efforts towards the socio-economic, natural and human resources development. Many former graduates are working in national, regional, international institutions as well as in local and international NGOs at various capacities.
It can be therefore concluded that the contribution of Alemaya University starting from the beginning to the country's human resources development cannot be overemphasized.

The Ethiopian Society of Animal Production is very proud of this achievement as most of its members are former students of Alemaya and few are also currently staff members of the University.

ESAP strongly believes that Alemaya University will continue to play a significant role in the socio-economic and human resources development endeavors of the country. We also believe that learning from what has happened to the then Lake Alemaya, the University will seriously follow up and contribute to the efforts of conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

[1] Institute of Biodiversity Conservation