



# ETHIOPIAN SOCIETY OF ANIMAL PRODUCTION

## ESAP recommendations series No. 3

**Policy and research recommendations; and final declarations of the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Ethiopian Society of Animal Production (ESAP)**



**8-10 October 2008**

**EIAR, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

**ESAP- Your reliable Partner in Livestock Development**

## **Executive summary**

This report on policy and research recommendations of the 16<sup>th</sup> ESAP annual conference held from October 8-10, 2008 provides a summary of major issues discussed, resolutions arrived at and recommendations made. This document was prepared based on the following procedures. A format for questions/comments and answers was prepared before the commencement of the conference. This served to collect accurate expressions of the ideas of contributors/speakers. The format was distributed to whoever raised questions or provided comments or responded during the plenary, brownbag and business sessions. Individual session reports were gathered from rapporteurs. General observations, major issues raised and discussed during the three sessions are also summarized.

## **General Observations**

The Ethiopian society of Animal production (ESAP) held its 16<sup>th</sup> Annual conference on the theme '*Commercialization of Livestock Agriculture in Ethiopia*' from October 8-10, 2008 in Hiruy hall of the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR). Members of ESAP, Government officials, NGO community and invited guests attended the workshop. The total turn out was around 550 people. Dr. Tadelle Dessie (President of ESAP) made a welcome address to the participants. He then invited Ato Seyoum Bediye, Process Owner, EIAR Livestock Research Process to make an opening speech. Ato Seyoum stressed the importance of such societies in the face of the current

economic growth anticipated in the new millennium. This was followed by a very comprehensive keynote address focused on the potential role of the livestock sector in poverty reduction, in food security, and in the Ethiopian national economy as well as quality aspects of livestock outputs in face of the current feature of globalization made by Mr Mafa Chipeta, FAO representative.

The meeting lasted for three days and was divided into different sessions. The first day and, half of the second day were devoted to the plenary session. Papers related to livestock commercialization and a few other relevant topics namely packaging of milk and milk products and recent advances in animal biotechnology were presented during this session. Each session was followed by very hot discussions that included questions, comments, information and relevant responses to the respective queries. All the participants attended the plenary as well as the Animal breeding sessions that took place during the first couple of days. The first half of the third and last day was devoted for technical papers, which were presented in two groups: Animal Production; and Animal Feeds and Nutrition. The financial flow of the society, reports of the EC activities, and the editorial and publishing processes of one EJAP issue during the last working year were presented, and the closing remark was made in the afternoon of this same day. The lunch hours (12:10-2:00 PM) of the three days were used for three brownbag sessions (SPS-LMM Project, ESAP retrospective: A little bit of the past and FAO, respectively). There was a very lively reception after the end of the second day's program.

The conference generally went very lively. This conference might perhaps be the first of its kind where the number of participants was constant throughout the three conference days.

## **Outstanding issues discussed**

Outstanding remarks, recommendations, and reflections made during the group discussion are briefly summarized below.

The importance of customers' need oriented research and development was emphasized. It was suggested that policy and strategy documents of the government should get attention and a few other documents that worth reading namely livestock revolution of 2020 and a recent FAO document produced in Zimbabwe were suggested. The need to go beyond research and the critical importance of bringing all the concerned stakeholders was also brought to the attention of conference participants.

The necessity of professional agreement to work in a well organized and coordinated manner in order to lift the existing type of livestock production system which is mainly characterized as subsistence to commercial level was underlined. This remark was made as so far research activities were not assisting smallholders in a very organized manner. It was also made clear to conference participants that hereafter research will be developed based on demand driven cases. It was also indicated that there is however a need to

search more the areas that have a potential to bring about significant differences within a short period.

It was emphasized that understanding policy strategies and frameworks should take the top position to influence policy makers via the decision made by the ESAP community. It was also indicated that the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR) has responsibility of introducing technologies and/or knowledge for the commercialization of the Ethiopian livestock sector in the short term.

The critical importance of the factors that facilitates commercialization of the Ethiopian livestock agriculture in the international scenario such as education, different infrastructures (road, telecommunication), land planning, and animal health services (private veterinary service) was underlined. The need of strengthening support services to the private sector was also discussed. Comments were made on the need of rendering a due attention to animal diseases of economic importance to promote livestock commercialization in Ethiopia. It was stressed that it is high time to strengthen collaboration with other sister organizations to improve the animal health services in relation to livestock commercialization in Ethiopia.

The existence of opportunities in exporting meat to more African countries was indicated. The need of making critical market assessment for livestock and livestock products and the accompanied farmers' income from the sector was agreed to be of prime importance. It was also indicated that market

oriented production system should well be popularized if target is to commercialize the livestock sector.

It was also commented that although there is potential and prospect in fisheries development in Ethiopia, awareness to the danger of looming - indiscriminate fishing, where there is no strict and enforced regulation in place is necessary. Typical examples mentioned were Lake Chamo and Abaya. It was then indicated that it is high time that alarm is sent as the danger of loosing the fish resource is evident.

#### ***Recommendations for ESAP to accomplish***

- ESAP should invite livestock and livestock product traders in the forthcoming ESAP conferences
- ESAP should make sure that the final outcomes or decisions of ESAP conferences reaches policy makers either via their feeders or directly by ESAP executive committee.
- ESAP should identify all concerned stakeholders and make them participate and maintain the participation of the already existing ones.

#### ***Policy and Research recommendations***

- Livestock commercialization policy issues
- The importance of gender consideration in livestock commercialization
- Environmental issues related to livestock production and commercialization

## **ESAP's 16<sup>th</sup> annual conference closing remarks**

The closing remark was made by Ato Seyoum Bediye, Process owner, EIAR Livestock Research Process.

The chairman, Dr *Getachew Gebru*, thanked ESAP members, the executive committee and invited guests for their participation during the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of ESAP that took place from October 8-10 2008.