



# **ETHIOPIAN SOCIETY OF ANIMAL PRODUCTION**

## **ESAP recommendations series No. 4**

**Recommendations and final declarations of the 17<sup>th</sup>  
Annual Conference of the Ethiopian Society of Animal  
Production (ESAP)**

**24-25 September, 2009**

**EIAR, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

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

## **Executive summary**

This report on research and policy recommendations of the 17<sup>th</sup> ESAP annual conference held on September 24 - 25, 2009 provides a summary of major issues discussed, resolutions arrived at and recommendations made. This document is 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, technical papers and business sessions. General observations, major issues raised and discussed during the two days conference are summarized.

## **General Observations**

The Ethiopian society of Animal Production held its 17<sup>th</sup> Annual conference on the theme '**Climate change, livestock and people: Challenges, opportunities and the way forward**' from September 24-25, 2009 in Hiruy hall of the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research. Members of ESAP, Government officials, NGO community and invited guests attended the workshop. The turn out was around 450 people. The plenary session was moderated by Mr. Alemayehu Mengistu. Dr. Tadelle Dessie (President of ESAP) made well-come address to the participants. He then invited Dr. Berhe Gebre Egziabher, Director of Animal and Plant Health Regulatory Directorate, to make opening address on behalf of Dr. Abera Deresa, State Minister, MoARD. Dr. Solomon Assefa, Director General of the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR) then made a motivating keynote address that focused on the future and potential contribution of the livestock sector of the country.

The meeting lasted for two days and was divided into different sessions. The afternoon of the first day was devoted to the plenary session. Papers related to climate change and livestock production were presented during this session. After attending the 'Livestock Breeding' session (one of the technical papers session), participants were divided into two groups to attend parallel sessions on 'Animal Production' and 'Animal Feeds and Nutrition'. The morning of the final day was dedicated for Business session in which various reports were presented and discussed. In the afternoon of this second and final day three new executive members were elected to replace ex-Executive members that served ESAP for three terms. Each session was followed by lively discussions that lasted from 30 minutes to an hour. The lunch hours (12:00-2:00) of the two days were used for two brown bag sessions: FAO/SFE on the first day and SPS/LMM-USAID on the second day. On September 24, 2009 from 6:30-8:00 PM there was a lively certificate award ceremony for EC members that served the last term followed by a lively reception.

The conference generally went very lively and the number of participants was constant throughout the conference days. As it was the case during the 16<sup>th</sup> ESAP conference, the participation of NGO's was significant.

### **Outstanding issues discussed, and policy and research recommendation made**

Outstanding remarks made during the group discussion including questions raised and discussed, and issues that need the attention of policy makers and relevant researchers are briefly summarized below.

It was commented that involvement of Government employees in scaling-up of technologies may retard the intended progress since they are tied up with routine activities. The best option is to outsource private individuals who could scale-up the technology.

A remark was also made that human activities have been and are destroying our natural resources and changing them into adverse resources such as environmental degradation. It was also stressed that not much has been done to reverse the degradation rather situations that aggravate the problem were probably accumulated over centuries. In so long a period man made challenges were not adequately addressed. No right policies, development strategies and research packages are in place. With these situations being prevailing in the Ethiopian context, then is it shouldn't be logical to use climate change as a scapegoat. Research should therefore be geared towards identifying the real cause of the problem and look for strategies to reverse the situation.

Other major remarks made include:

- Climate change may create opportunities e.g. better rainfall. Are we ready to exploit those opportunities?
- What do latest predictions say? Less rain for semi-arid areas? If so what is the implication for researchers, herders or policy makers?
- Do we have a national and coordinated strategy and approach to better position ourselves in reducing these problems?
- What comparative advantages does Ethiopia have in the carbon trade? Where does the comparative advantage of Ethiopia lay in clean energy, in reducing degradation and deforestation, and in improving livestock and grazing?

- How can we negotiate globally on reductions in emissions? Do we have the necessary information to alternative scenarios?

***Recommendations for ESAP to accomplish:***

- The Ethiopian Society of Animal Production (ESAP) should take the responsibility of organizing a round table discussions at national level with all stakeholders where:
  - Knowledge gaps will be discussed,
  - Key points will be figured out,
  - Options will be tabled and communicated about what we know and what we don't? And ESAP should take the lead on this aspect.
- ESAP should also launch specific commissioned studies, document technological and institutional innovations that help in reducing vulnerability to the effects of climate change.

**ESAP's 17<sup>th</sup> annual conference closing remarks**

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

The chairman then thanked ESAP members, the executive committee and all invited guests for their participation in the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of ESAP that held on September 24 and 25, 2009.