Communications and Knowledge Management

Knowledge management, communications and information exchange functions at ILRI are spread across the institute and include publishing, public awareness, information and document management, web communications, online communications, use of social media, support to innovation processes and platforms, event and process facilitation, multimedia reporting, communities of practice and networks, and monitoring and impact assessment in these areas.

The Communications and Knowledge Management team provides central leadership in knowledge sharing, engagement, communications and information facilities and expertise to ILRI researchers, the organization, and its partners. Activities are intended to enhance ILRI’s effectiveness and outcomes in five main areas:

1. Publishing – Capturing, organizing, disseminating and making accessible ILRI’s research products and outputs
2. Knowledge sharing – Facilitating collaboration, learning, interaction and exchange in and around ILRI projects and teams
3. Communicating for impact – Optimizing research outputs and products for ‘local’ uptake and use
4. External communication – Informing and engaging general and specialist audiences about the purpose and results of ILRI’s research
5. Internal communication – Sharing and accessing information and connecting people across ILRI

The communications and knowledge management unit is organized in three teams:

1. Knowledge, publishing and curation team led by James Stapleton. This team organizes and publishes ILRI’s knowledge to maximize its accessibility and use. It supports processes to co-create, capture, document and disseminate ILRI’s knowledge through various products. It also curates this knowledge by managing the systems, workflows and channels necessary to collect, organize, categorize and distribute content.

2. Knowledge, engagement and collaboration team led by Ewen Le Borgne. This team facilitates engagement, collaboration, learning and knowledge sharing across ILRI and with key stakeholders. It supports communities of practice, and networks. It promotes effective uses of social, collaborative and online tools and approaches. And it designs, facilitates and documents processes and events.

3. Communications, awareness and advocacy team lead by Susan MacMillan. This team helps ILRI to frame issues, attract higher quality attention to livestock in the developing world, build greater support for pro-poor livestock research for development and make its science stories ‘stick.’ It does this through strategic, targeted communications and campaigns that influence key stakeholder groups.

Key expertise and service areas include:

- Establishing and managing knowledge ‘repositories’ of ILRI and partner products (reports, articles, video, etc.). http://cgspace.cgiar.org
- Using ‘social’ participatory web-based communication approaches and tools to disseminate research information in ways that engage different audiences. http://maarifa.ilri.org
- Using multimedia (film, video, audio, images, photo-films) to support reporting and publishing of research activities; typically capturing project knowledge, reporting on events, communicating messages to wide audiences.
- Event and process design, facilitation and reporting to deliver effective and participatory engagement and meetings. Typically delivered through an event support ‘package’ tailored to specific needs. http://maarifa.ilri.org/social-reporting
- Using knowledge, communication and ICTs to support the delivery of research for development projects, with partners. Typically delivered through a tailored communications and knowledge sharing ‘package’ for a project.
- Using communication and knowledge sharing to support (research) collaboration and engagement.

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The International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) works with partners worldwide to enhance the roles that livestock play in food security and poverty alleviation, principally in Africa and Asia. The outcomes of these research partnerships help people in developing countries keep their farm animals alive and productive, increase and sustain their livestock and farm productivity, find profitable markets for their animal products, and reduce the risk of livestock-related diseases.

ILRI’s mission is to improve food and nutritional security and to reduce poverty in developing countries through research for efficient, safe and sustainable use of livestock—ensuring better lives through livestock. Working closely with its partners, ILRI’s three strategic objectives are:

- develop, test, adapt and promote science-based practices that—being sustainable and scalable—achieve better lives through livestock.

- provide compelling scientific evidence in ways that persuade decision-makers—from farms to boardrooms and parliaments—that smarter policies and bigger livestock investments can deliver significant socioeconomic, health and environmental dividends to both poor nations and households.

- increase capacity among ILRI’s key stakeholders and the institute itself so that they can make better use of livestock science and investments for better lives through livestock.

ILRI’s skills and expertise include our three main pillars for animal production—animal health, feeds and genetics—as well as, and more specifically: biology, molecular biology, microbiology, epidemiology, biotechnology, diagnostics and vaccine development; ecology, agricultural systems and agricultural value chains; sociology, gender and poverty analysis, participatory research and impact assessment; market economics; and development communications and knowledge sharing.

The International Livestock Research Institute is an international research institute with its headquarters in Kenya and co-hosted by the Government of Ethiopia in Addis Ababa. It works through a network of regional and country offices and projects in East and Southeast Asia, South Asia, East, Central, Southern and West Africa and in Central America.

ILRI leads the CGIAR Research Program on Livestock agri-food systems, leads a component of a CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health on the prevention and control of agriculture-associated diseases, and contributes to seven other CGIAR research programs. Staff members work in integrated sciences and biosciences programs that develop and deliver science-based practices, provide scientific evidence for decision-making and develop capacities of livestock-sector stakeholders. With the African Union/New Partnership for Africa’s Development Planning and Coordination Agency, ILRI also hosts and manages the Biosciences eastern and central Africa (BecA)-ILRI Hub.