

Livestock Matter(s)

ILRI News Round-up



The March-April issue of 'Livestock Matter(s)' presents a round-up of livestock development news from ILRI and its partners.

Corporate news

ILRI opens state-of-the-art genebank and bioscience facilities in Ethiopia



The International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) officially opens state-of-the-art facilities for genebank and bioscience research today, 24 April 2017. The facilities will help protect a crucial component of the planet's biodiversity—the

diverse grasses and legumes that feed the world's food animals. Research conducted here on livestock feed materials improves the sustainability and productivity of the livestock sector in many low-income countries across the world.

The legacy of Norman Borlaug: Alive and well at the International Livestock Research Institute

Staff of the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) were delighted that the Borlaug family managed to include a visit to ILRI's Nairobi headquarters this week (Wed 15 Mar 2017) during a trip they are making to Kenya.

Simplistic livestock solutions no help for poor people in transition from smallholders to 'smartholders'

Jimmy Smith, director general of the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), who previously led the World Bank's global livestock portfolio, was in Australia last week, talking to ILRI's scientific colleagues and donor representatives in Canberra and Melbourne. ILRI is chaired by Australian Lindsay Falvey and its patron is Australian Nobel Prize laureate Peter Doherty.

Project news

Africa RISING management team visits project sites in east and southern Africa

The leadership team of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA)-led Africa RISING project in east and southern Africa recently concluded monitoring visits to project sites in Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia. The team assessed the status and progress of implementation of various project activities by partners. These visits took place between 15 and 22 February 2017 in Malawi and Zambia, and 21–31 March 2017 in Tanzania.

Research to help secure rangelands for users presented at World Bank Land and Poverty Conference

Managing interactions between environmental change and livestock systems through interventions, such as sustainable rangeland use and improved land governance, is a key focus of the Sustainable Livestock Systems program of the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI). The aim is to develop and promote research-based interventions that will protect and promote rational resource allocation and use, thereby improving livestock keepers' livelihoods and resilience.

Where chickens and women rule: ACGG rolls out gender awareness campaign

African Chicken Genetic Gains (ACGG) is a research for development program which tests and makes available high-producing, farmer-preferred chicken genotypes to farmers in Africa. The program is developing and increasing access to the preferred chicken strains for smallholder farmers in Ethiopia, Nigeria and Tanzania.

Training on field postmortem examination and sample collection to control small ruminant respiratory and reproductive diseases in Ethiopia

Studies in 2015 and 2016 identified respiratory and reproductive diseases as key constraints in small ruminant production in Ethiopia. One of the aims of the livestock health flagship of the CGIAR Research Program on Livestock is to develop herd health packages which combine disease

prevention and control with improved husbandry to reduce the occurrence and impact of these diseases.

From livestock smallholders to 'smartholders': Nurturing development with animal-source foods

Scientists from across the globe gathered at the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences on 29–30 Mar 2017 to discuss ways to improve nutrition through animal-source foods in some of the most impoverished regions in the world.

Milk consumption project to tackle child malnutrition in Rwanda

Increasing dairy production and consumption of quality milk is key to eradicating child malnutrition in Rwanda, where 38% of children under the age of five are stunted.

This was stressed at an inception workshop for a new International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)-led Feed the Future Livestock Systems Innovations Lab (LSIL) project on 'Enhancing milk quality and consumption for improved income and nutrition in Rwanda' on 7 Mar 2017 in Kigali.

ILRI in the media

'One cow' program can cut poverty and pave the way for lower 'hoofprints' too

A new study shows that Rwanda's One Cow per Poor Family program can significantly cut food insecurity – and with improved cattle feeding, it can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions intensity too.

The study, conducted by CIAT with partners including the Rwanda Agriculture Board (RAB), used survey data from almost 900 farmers across Rwanda's complex landscape, to compare potential impacts of different policies and programs designed to boost agricultural production and reduce poverty while assessing their environmental impact.

Simplistic anti-meat mantra hurts third world

The developing world has much to learn from rich western economies, but eating less meat is not one of those lessons.

Kenyan-based livestock research chief, Jimmy Smith, says producing more meat and making it more available to international markets will be critical to helping the economic and nutritional health of developing countries and their small scale farmers.

Odisha inks MoU for improving feeding system of livestock

Keeping in view the importance of nutritional management in livestock farming, Odisha government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) today with International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Nairobi, in presence of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.

Staff updates

In March and April we welcomed the following staff:

- Ilona Gluecks, research facility manager.
- Habibar Rahman, regional representative, South Asia.
- Yaojing Yue, postdoctoral fellow.
- Beamlak Tesfaye, knowledge management and communications expert.
- Gebrehiwot Hailemariam, monitoring and evaluation associate/data manager.
- Abiy Degefe, accountant.
- Abule Ebro, research coordinator.
- Fiseha Sisay, executive chef.

We said goodbye to:

- James Oguya, Linux systems administrator.
- Winfred Muoka, lab assistant.
- Stephen Mwaura, manager, Tick Unit.
- Anne Timu, research analyst.
- Peter Ballantyne, head, Communications and Knowledge Management.
- Timothy Robinson, principal scientist, spatial analyst/statistician.
- Asfawosen Haile, driver.
- Habtamu Asres, driver.
- Tsegaye W/Mariam, driver.
- Yasin Getahun, GIS analyst.
- Beamlak Tesfaye, knowledge management and communications expert, LIVES.
- Kaleb Shiferaw, research officer.
- Ephrem Tesema, gender expert.
- Dereje Legesse, agribusiness expert.
- Gebremedhin Woldemahid, regional coordinator.
- Yigzaw Dessalegn, regional coordinator.
- Mamusha Lemma, capacity development and innovation expert.
- Abule Ebro, regional coordinator.
- Abigail Admasu, accountant

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Patron: Professor Peter C Doherty AC, FAA, FRS

Animal scientist, Nobel Prize Laureate for Physiology or Medicine—1996

Box 30709, Nairobi 00100 Kenya
Phone +254 20 422 3000
Fax +254 20 422 3001
Email ilri-kenya@cgiar.org

ilri.org
better lives through livestock

ILRI is a CGIAR research centre

Box 5689, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Phone +251 11 617 2000
Fax +251 11 667 6923
Email ilri-ethiopia@cgiar.org

ILRI has offices in East Africa • South Asia • Southeast and East Asia • Southern Africa • West Africa

