



INITIATIVE ON
Sustainable Animal
Productivity

Training report on establishing a tropical poultry platform in Ethiopia

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About SAPLING

CGIAR's Sustainable Animal Productivity for Livelihoods, Nutrition and Gender Inclusion (SAPLING) is working in seven countries focusing on livestock value chains to package and scale out tried-and-tested, as well as new, innovations in livestock health, genetics, feed, and market systems. SAPLING aims to demonstrate that improvements in livestock productivity can offer a triple win: generating improved livelihoods and nutritional outcomes, contributing to women's empowerment, and reducing impacts on climate and the environment. Its seven focus countries are Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Nepal, Tanzania, Uganda, and Vietnam.

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Background to training

The poultry industry in tropical regions encounters several challenges that impede its growth. A key issue is the fragmented nature of existing initiatives, which operate in isolation and contribute to inefficiency and poor coordination. Smallholder farmers, crucial to the industry's foundation, often struggle to access vital financial, technical, and institutional resources, limiting their ability to adopt improved practices and technologies. Furthermore, many platforms fail to adequately represent the needs of these producers, resulting in less effective interventions. To address the rising demand for eggs and chicken meat, various programs have been implemented across the tropics. However, the overlap and lack of synergy among these initiatives often lead to duplication of efforts. Scaling up village chicken production requires optimal use of available organizational and financial resources and effective coordination among stakeholders. In response to these collective action challenges, coordination entities are often established. While there are regional and global poultry forums, they typically address a narrow range of issues and do not sufficiently represent smallholder producers' challenges. The Tropical Poultry Platform (TROP) has been proposed to fill this gap. TROP aims to create a collaborative space for knowledge exchange across the poultry value chain, facilitating the circulation of research and best practices and promoting joint actions to tackle common problems.

This training titled 'Towards establishing a tropical poultry platform' targeted smallholder farmers, private companies, development actors, and research institutes in Africa and Southeast Asia to align stakeholders on strategies for effectively packaging and scaling innovative solutions in the poultry sector. This training was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 12-13 March 2024, in collaboration with the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) Impact at Scale team.

Location and modality

The training was provided face-to-face and held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Dates

The training was held 12–13 March 2024

Who conducted the training?

The Tropical Poultry Genetics Solution (TPGS), in collaboration with the Impact at Scale scaling readiness team, provided the training.

Objectives of the training

The main objectives of the training were:

1. Establishing a common understanding of the innovation being scrutinized and the related scaling ambition.

2. Analyzing innovation packaging: Identifying the barriers, problems, and challenges that prevent innovation scaling, as well as exploring enablers, solutions, and opportunities to address them.
3. Assessing innovation readiness and use: Evaluating the readiness and suitability of the suggested innovations/solutions for implementation.
4. Determining next steps for innovation scaling: Taking stock of the emerging innovation package and identifying priority next steps to advance the scaling effort.

Reflection and closing: Allowing participants to reflect on the workshop and gain clarity on the way forward.

Training agenda

The workshop agenda covered a comprehensive process to explore and advance the scaling of a particular innovation (see Annex 1). It began with introductions, setting expectations and aligning everyone's understanding of the innovation and scaling ambition. The agenda then delved into thoroughly analyzing the barriers, problems and challenges preventing effective scaling. Participants worked collaboratively to identify enablers, solutions and opportunities to address these issues. The workshop also included dedicated sessions to assess the readiness and suitability of the suggested interventions. Toward the end, the group took stock of the emerging innovation package, determined the next steps to prioritize, and reflected on the workshop experience. The agenda emphasized fostering collective sense-making, knowledge exchange, and collaborative action planning to support innovation scaling.

Training participants

The Tropical Poultry Platform (TROP) training brought together a diverse group of participants, including both national and international stakeholders. The national participants, drawn from Ethiopia, consisted of 10 individuals (one female). This group included researchers, academics, and practitioners from Bishoftu, Adama, and ILRI Ethiopia. The national participants represented a cross section of expertise in the poultry industry, including veterinary medicine, animal science and agricultural development.

On the other hand, the international participants hailed from various countries, including Kenya, Tanzania, Vietnam and Cambodia. These participants represented various organizations including Kukuchick Limited, Agro Kenya, Silverlands, the Tanzania Poultry Breeders Association (TPBA), the National Institute of Animal Sciences (NIAS) in Vietnam, Novogen Company, and the National Animal Health and Production Research Institute (NAHPRI) in Cambodia. The international participants brought a wealth of experience and perspectives from their respective regions and organizations. The diversity of the training participants, in terms of their national origins and professional affiliations, provided a rich tapestry of knowledge and insights to address the challenges and opportunities in the tropical poultry industry. This inclusive and collaborative approach fostered a comprehensive understanding of the sector and helped come up with innovative solutions to support its growth and development.

Next steps

The Tropical Poultry Platform represents a significant opportunity to enhance the poultry industry in tropical regions. Stakeholder input underscores the importance of inclusive

governance, targeted support for smallholder farmers, and strong partnerships. The platform's ambitious targets and strategic approach reflect a commitment to fostering inclusive growth and improving livelihoods in Africa and Southeast Asia. Continued collaboration and active participation from all stakeholders will be essential in achieving TROP's objectives and maximizing its impact on the livelihoods of smallholder farmers.

The following were action areas:

- Identify the most critical enablers and work with partners.
- Do consultation with various stakeholders/actors.
- Make the TROP-defined product/concept.

Photos



National participants for the scaling ambition workshop (photo credit: ILRI/CKM)

Annex 1: Training agenda

WORKSHOP AGENDA

INTRODUCTION	9:00 am	Welcome, introductions and hopes Everyone has landed in the venue, gets grounded in the topic and expectations, and they have shared their personal hopes for the day. How: Plenary discussion and exercises
	9:40 am	Innovation description and scaling ambition Everyone is reminded about the innovation that is being scrutinized, as well as on the related scaling ambition. How: Plenary presentation and discussion
	10:30 am	Break
INNOVATION PACKAGE DESIGN	10:50 am	Innovation packaging: barriers, problems and challenges The group has done a thorough analysis of the challenges and problems that prevent scaling of the innovation. How: Individual reflection and (plenary) collective sense-making
	11:55 am	Innovation packaging: enablers, solutions and opportunities Participants have suggested concrete and specific interventions (complementary innovations and enablers) to address the challenges. How: Breakout group work
	12:30 pm	Lunch break
SCALING READINESS ASSESSMENT	1:30 pm	Innovation packaging: taking stock of enablers The group has taken stock of and critically reviewed all the enablers / solutions suggested. How: Plenary sense-making
	2:10 pm	Innovation readiness assessment Everyone is clear on what is an innovation readiness assessment and they have assessed the readiness of their suggested enablers / solutions. How: Plenary presentation and breakout group work
	2:45 pm	Innovation use assessment Everyone is clear on what is an innovation use assessment and they have assessed the use of their suggested enablers / solutions. How: Plenary presentation and breakout group work
	3:20 pm	Break
NEXT STEPS	3:35 pm	Innovation scaling readiness - Taking stock The group has taken stock of the emerging whole innovation package; They have made initial sense about priority next steps. How: Breakout and plenary group sense-making
	4:10 pm	Coming full cycle, next steps and closing Everyone has reflected on the workshop, they are clear on next steps How: Individual reflection and plenary discussion
	4:30 pm	Close