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 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, South and Southeast Asia, Central, East, Southern and West Africa.

ILRI leads the CGIAR Research Program on Livestock, leads a component of the CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health on food safety, and contributes to several other CGIAR research programs and platforms. Staff members work in integrated programs that develop and deliver science-based practices, provide scientific evidence for decision-making and develop capacities of livestock-sector stakeholders. ILRI is the co-founder, with the African Union/New Partnership for Africa's Development Planning and Coordination Agency, of the Biosciences Eastern and Central Africa Hub (BecA-ILRI Hub) on its Nairobi campus where world-class facilities for biotechnology research are in use by ILRI, other international centres and many national partners. The platform increases access to advanced laboratories for African and international scientists conducting research on African agricultural challenges.

CGIAR is a global research partnership for a food-secure future. CGIAR science is dedicated to reducing poverty, enhancing food and nutrition security, and improving natural resources and ecosystem services. Its research is carried out by 15 CGIAR centres in close collaboration with hundreds of partners, including national and regional research institutes, civil society organizations, academia, development organizations and the private sector.

Better lives through livestock
ILRI envisions a world where all people have access to enough food and livelihood options to fulfil their potential.

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 research
ILRI’s skills and expertise include our three main pillars of work on animal production—animal health, feeds and genetics—as well as, and more specifically on:

- emerging infectious diseases and veterinary epidemiology, herd health, food safety, food-borne diseases, one health/eco-health, and zoonotic diseases;
- forage agronomy, forage diversity and conservation, animal nutrition, phenotypic and genotypic forage characterization;
- animal genetics and genomics, immunology, next-generation diagnostics, parasitology and vaccine development;
livestock systems, sustainable intensification, systems analysis, modelling, mapping and spatial analysis, environmental sciences, ecosystem services, rangeland ecology, natural resource management, pastoral and dryland systems, humid tropics, climate adaptation, resilience and social sciences;

agri-economics, value chain economics, agricultural trade, foresight and policy research, animal health economics, innovation systems science, gender science, monitoring, evaluation and learning and impact assessment; and

development communications and knowledge sharing.

Together with our partners, we work on the following research programs:

- Animal and human health
- Livestock genetics
- Feed and forage development
- Sustainable livestock systems
- Policies, institutions and livelihoods
- Impact at scale
- Biosciences eastern and central Africa–ILRI Hub.

Find out more

The results of ILRI work are published in different channels. All our reports and publications are freely available at ilri.org. Our staff members publish in a wide range of scientific journals, many of which are open access for anyone to read. We also communicate our work through film, video, photographs and radio, and we share the data we collect as well as any software we produce.

ILRI thanks all donors and organizations which globally supports its work through their contributions to the CGIAR Trust Fund.