A boy looking at newly born kid (left) and pastoral women take care of small ruminant flock. Photo Gezahegn A./ILRI

Context

- Increasing flock reproductive performance can be achieved through different interventions.
- To ensure cost-efficiency of interventions, changes in reproductive performance need to be measured and monitored objectively.
- Various traits have been measures over time, making comparisons difficult.
- We collected data on commonly used reproductive performance measures from 242 goat flocks in four districts in the drylands of Ethiopia

Our innovative approach

- A quantitative **goat annual reproductive performance index (G-ARPI)** was developed by combining reproductive performance traits.

Pastoral girl competing with kid to get milk. Photo: Gezahegn A./ILRI

POVERTY REDUCTION, LIVELIHOODS & JOBS

A goat annual reproductive performance index to guide flock health interventions

- Towards objective measurement of reproductive performance of traditionally managed goat flocks in the drylands of Ethiopia.

- Any intervention plan to increase reproductive performance needs to measure and monitor reproductive failures appropriately.

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Outcomes

- Objective comparison of reproductive performance across management systems and interventions, esp. in projects targeting dryland production systems.

- Used to evaluate the costs of poor reproductive management and development of economic models.

Future steps

- Improved tool for farmers/pastoralists, veterinarians and researchers to determine reproductive performance at flock level.

- Will be used to monitor reproductive performance to make flock management adjustments

- Validate and possibly to re-calibrate the index and its cut-offs and adapt the approach for other production systems in different agro-ecologies.

Partners