



Open spaces created in the program allows women and men to openly discuss gender issues in livestock. Photo Bethlehem/ILRI

## Context

- Women's membership in breeding cooperatives is extremely low mainly due to constraining gender norms, e.g. about 50% of women members are represented by men.
- Development and research partners lack core gender capacities to identify and systematically deal with restrictive gender norms.
- The work here builds on previous research (a survey, both quantitative & qualitative) that sought to identify gender-based constraints in Livestock CRP target sites in Ethiopia.

## Our innovative approach

- A stepwise capacity development approach created spaces where communities themselves recognize and identify critical gender issues and formulate action plans that they can implement with their own capacities, overcoming the key constraints to women's participation.
- We then identified women and men livestock keepers who could act as champions in best practices to be used as models in their communities to teach others.



## GENDER EQUALITY, YOUTH & SOCIAL INCLUSION

### Women for women: Creating spaces to mobilize women champions in livestock breeding programs in Ethiopia

- Communities identify the key constraints to the participation of their women in animal breeding cooperatives.
- They agree and implement action plans based on their own capacities, including identifying champions and role models.
- Communities recognized and appreciated the roles women playing in the breeding cooperatives.



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## Where is this taking place?

- In the three main Livestock CRP sites in Ethiopia: SNNP, Oromia and Amhara

## Outcomes

- Women's contributions to the breeding cooperatives, in which their spouses are also members, were acknowledged by men, cooperative leaders and service providers.
- Cooperative leaders formulated and implemented action plans to address gender issues and sustainably improve gender equality in their cooperatives.
- Cooperative leaders began to revise cooperative bylaws to accommodate couples as members, in which women play significant roles.

## Future steps

- Follow-up implementations of the action plans.
- Mobilize gender champions in best practices to develop a critical mass of such individuals.

## Partners

Local research and development partners including Bureau of women & children affairs.



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