

Debre Zeit Researchers Win 2004 Neville Clarke Award for Teamwork

The ILRI Debre Zeit Research Station in Ethiopia has been awarded the 2004 Neville Clarke Award for Partnerships and Teamwork.

The award is made to recognize achievements that have been brought about by innovative and exceptional teamwork and partnerships, and have made outstanding contributions towards ILRI’s research goals.

The team at Debre Zeit has over the years contributed significantly towards dairy development in Ethiopia by working in partnership with national research and development institutions, NGOs, universities and the smallholder dairy farmers themselves.

Dr Azage Tegegne, manager of the Debre Zeit Research Station, and ILRI were involved in setting up the Ada’a Liben Dairy Cooperative in 1998 and continue to train the cooperative’s members in dairy production, milk processing and quality control.

The Ethiopian government now regards the cooperative as a model for other small-



Members of Ada’Liben Dairy Cooperative during a training course in milk processing at Debre Zeit Research Station, Ethiopia.

Photo courtesy of Debre Zeit Research Station

scale dairy processors in urban and peri-urban Ethiopia.

The research team has also been involved in capacity building by offering its facilities for graduate and post-graduate training in various aspects of dairy development.

Over 30 young scientists from universities in Denmark, Ethiopia, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Uganda and USA have benefited from this initiative. Capacity building has also been extended to about 330 farmers and technical staff from various governmental institutions and NGOs.

ILRI Debre Zeit has also worked together with several NGO part-

ners to disseminate ILRI’s improved butter-churning technology to over 320 smallholder dairy farmers; this new technology enhances butterfat recovery thereby increasing the efficiency of small-scale butter processing.

We congratulate the entire Debre Zeit research team and their development partners for this notable achievement towards the development of sustainable dairy production systems in Ethiopia.

For more details on the ILRI Debre Zeit Research Station, kindly contact Dr Azage Tegegne (a.tegegne@cgiar.org).

—Tezira Lore

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Issue 4

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Welcome to the fourth edition of “The Milk Run”. Your feedback on past issues of the newsletter is highly appreciated.

In this edition of “The Milk Run” we highlight the notable achievements of two models of successful research partnerships: Debre Zeit Research Station in Ethiopia and the Smallholder Dairy Project in Kenya.

For information on or contributions to the smallholder dairy network, contact Steve Staal (s.staal@cgiar.org) or William Thorpe (w.thorpe@cgiar.org).

A practical, profitable route out of poverty?

What impact will the current trends in livestock production have upon the rural poor? Livestock ownership currently supports or sustains the livelihoods of an estimated 700 million rural poor. In marginal areas, ownership of livestock is frequently the only thing that keeps poor families from sliding even further into poverty. Livestock can provide a steady stream of food and income, help to raise whole farm productivity and, for millions of landless people, is the only livelihood option available, allowing the exploitation of common-property resources for private gain. For smallholder farmers, livestock are often the only way of increasing assets and diversifying risk. Recent statistics reveal that an estimated 70% of the poor are women for whom livestock play an important role not only by providing a source of income but also by conferring status. Livestock production creates employment opportunities beyond the immediate household.

Where policies and poverty meet

Development interventions in the livestock sector in the past have not always produced lasting benefits. This lack of success has in part stemmed from inappropriate technology choices and a failure to secure access for poor farmers to essential livestock services. Even in cases where the technologies were appropriately targeted and the

focus distinctly pro-poor, technical projects have in many cases failed to deliver significant sustainable improvement in the livelihoods of the poor. Furthermore, in many countries, the livestock sector is heavily distorted in favour of large-scale producers. It is clear that political and institutional reform will be essential if agricultural intensification strategies are to have the right impact at the desired social levels.

This is much easier said than done. According to the FAO, international livestock policy-making currently suffers from three major weaknesses. The first is that although everyone in the sector, and beyond, is affected by policy decisions, national and international policies are frequently made with little or no consideration of their impact on the poor. Secondly, the incentives for countries to co-operate in the improvement of global public goods such as the environment may be limited where benefits are not immediate. Thirdly, many people are ill-informed about the detrimental impact that present livestock policies have on public goods and are not always aware of the views and needs of other affected parties.

To help overcome these weaknesses, FAO, with funding from DFID, is setting up a Pro-Poor Livestock Policy Facility within its Animal Production and Health Division. The

idea is to reduce poverty by supporting the formulation and promotion of international and national livestock policies for equitable, safe and clean livestock farming. The Initiative will encourage policy reforms that break down the financial, technical, social and cultural barriers that restrict the access of poorer people to the development potential offered by the livestock sector.

Although livestock production is undoubtedly changing from a local, multi-purpose activity to an increasingly market-oriented and vertically-integrated business, the projected growth in livestock production nevertheless offers a unique opportunity: a rapidly growing market of which many rural people already have experience and which they can enter without the need for substantial resources or training. Livestock production may not offer a universal solution to rural poverty but, for many, it represents a realistic way to build assets and financial security.

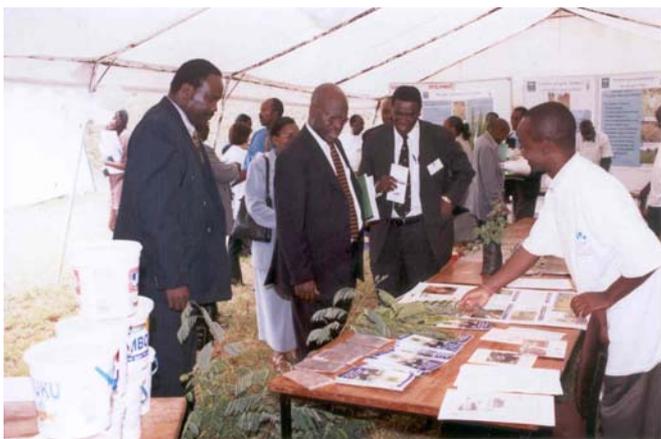
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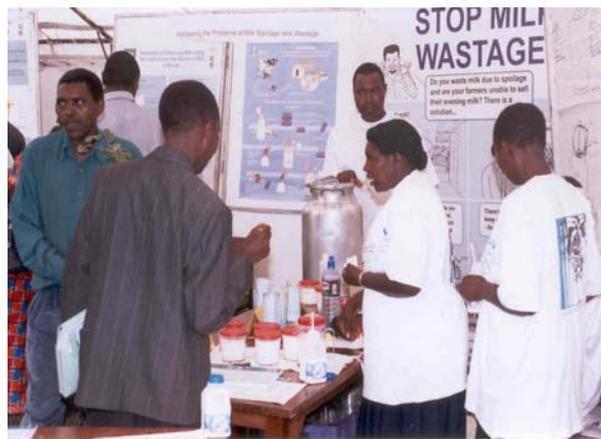
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Smallholder Dairy Project Holds Successful End-of-project Conference and Open Day



Eng David Stower, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Livestock Development (third right) and Dr David Miano, KARI Assistant Director of Animal Production Research (second right) being briefed on *Desmodium* cattle feeding technology.



A small-scale milk trader, trained by SDP, explains how to carry out milk quality tests. SDP was involved in participatory development of improved milk handling technology and training of informal traders on milk quality.

The Smallholder Dairy Project (SDP) held a conference and open day on 23 March 2005 to officially mark the end of the project that was funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID). The event featured a plenary session with presentations by SDP and partners, followed by marquee displays of specific project outputs.

SDP—a collaborative project involving the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development (MoLFD), the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) and ILRI—has since 1997 carried out research and development activities aimed at supporting sustainable improvements to the livelihoods of poor Kenyans through their involvement in the dairy sector.

Speaking during the conference session, the Permanent Secretary of MoLFD, Eng David Stower, and the Managing Director of the Kenya Dairy Board, Mr Machira Gichohi, both expressed the view that SDP has made a major impact on the Kenyan dairy sector and that lessons were being taken up and used in many places and projects. The KARI Assistant Director of Animal Production Research, Dr David Miano (also SDP Assistant Project Manager), echoed these sentiments for KARI. Bruce Scott—ILRI's Director of Partnerships and Communication—remarked that SDP has

changed ILRI, helping us think more about partnerships, participatory processes and outcomes.

Some of SDP's major achievements include: characterization surveys of dairy systems; development of improved feeding and milk handling technologies; national policy/institutional reforms; and engagements towards the harmonization of dairy policies in countries covered by the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).

In recognition of SDP's achievements, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) has bestowed SDP with four of its prestigious awards: Outstanding Scientific Partnership (in 1997), Outstanding Locally Recruited Scientist (to Dr Amos Omere in 1999), Promising Young Scientist (to Dr Alexander Kahi in 2001) and Outstanding Communications (in 2004).

The SDP team is certain that through the existing handover framework, the key aspects of SDP's work and outputs will be ably continued by local and regional research and development partners.

—Tezira Lore

Dairy India 2005 Yearbook to be Published Soon

Are you looking for the latest in-depth authoritative information on insights, trends, market opportunities and investment prospects pertaining to dairying in India and other developing countries? Then the 2005 edition of the *Dairy India Yearbook* is what you should turn to.

This latest edition is scheduled for publication in mid-April 2005 and review articles are currently being compiled focusing on practical aspects of dairy production, processing, marketing, training, extension, research and policy. For more details about the *Dairy India Yearbook* please email the editor, P R Gupta (yearbook@vsnl.com) or visit www.indiadairy.com.

—Tezira Lore

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ILRI—Better Lives through Livestock

ILRI, headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya is a non-profit institution governed by an international Board of Trustees. ILRI is one of 15 Future Harvest Centres that conduct food and environmental research to help alleviate poverty and increase food security while protecting the natural resource base. The Centres are supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research. ILRI's research products are designed to raise livestock productivity without depleting the natural resources on which farming depends. ILRI's mission is to enhance the well-being of present and future generations in developing countries through research that improves sustainable livestock production.

ILRI's research themes

Theme 1
Targeting opportunities

Theme 2
Enabling innovations

Theme 3
Market opportunities

Theme 4
Biotechnology

Theme 5
People, livestock
& the environment

Project Aimed at Improving Kenya's Dairy Sector Launched



Improved milk handling: Hygienic metal milk cans developed through collaborative efforts of the Smallholder Dairy Project and informal milk traders in Nakuru, Kenya.

Kenya's dairy industry stands to gain from improved quality assurance and efficiency following the launch of a DFID-funded project "Improving efficiency in milk production and market-

ing through provision of business development services" in Nairobi last December.

The project, which was launched by Kenya's Minister for Livestock Development, Mr Joseph Munyao, initially targets small-scale farmers and milk traders in 12 districts in the main milk-producing zones of the country.

The initiative is a public-private partnership between Strengthening Informal Sector Training and Enterprise (SITE), the Kenya Dairy Board (KDB) and ILRI.

SITE—a Kenyan non-governmental organization—will take the overall lead of the project while KDB will support the development of a training curriculum

and provide the requisite regulatory framework.

ILRI will assist in implementing the innovative scheme pioneered by the DFID-funded Smallholder Dairy Project for training and certification of small-scale informal milk traders.

ILRI will also document the lessons learnt from the ongoing training and certification scheme, with a view to improving the initiative and disseminating the results for wider application.

For more details about this project, contact Dr Amos Omoro (a.omoro@cgiar.org).

—Tezira Lore

Dairy Diary: Important Dates For You to Note!

11 to 14 April 2005: The 3rd International School Milk Conference in Kunming, China. The conference website is unavailable at the moment so for more details, please email ntj804@163.com or dpx804@yahoo.com.cn.

23 to 25 May 2005: The 1st African Dairy Conference and Exhibition in Nairobi, Kenya. The conference is organized by the Eastern and Southern African Dairy Association (ESADA). For more information please visit www.dairyafrika.com.

15 to 17 June 2005: The 4th NIZO Dairy Conference in Papendal, The Netherlands. For more information visit the conference website www.NIZOdairyconf.elsevier.com.

27 to 30 September 2005: The 1st Eastern and Southern Africa Regional School Milk Conference in Kampala, Uganda. For details visit www.dda.or.ug or email the conference coordinator on dda@afsar.com.