



Research and Impact Communiqué

July 13, 2015

This communiqué brings you research and impacts from the projects we support in Africa and South Asia as well as insights into our investigators, resources, up and coming conferences and funding opportunities. Visit our website at lccrsp.org and/or sign up to receive the monthly communication by email.

Update: Nepal Disaster Relief

Recent report from Nepal: “Researchers from the Livestock Innovation Lab working in the Gandaki River basin reported that our colleagues in Nepal are safe and well. Though experiencing some damage, the village we work with survived the quake with far less damage than villages nearer to Kathmandu. We have not heard any reports about damage from the recent large aftershock, though the epicenter was farther away.”

Our projects and partners are continuing working on the ground in Nepal for disaster relief. Click on the links below for up to date information on relief efforts and to see how you can help support relief efforts in Nepal.



[How to Support the Relief Effort for Nepal Earthquake Survivors](#)

Activities of the Livestock Innovation Lab

Long-term Project Impacts



[Making the Unpredictable Predictable: Climate Change Prediction Systems in Nepal](#)

Unpredictable and persistent, the effects of climate change in Nepal present a major challenge for pastoralists. Knowing what changes to expect can help pastoralists make the adaptations necessary to keep their herds healthy and productive. Working through a USDA grant for collaborative work, South Dakota State University researcher Lara Prihodko traveled to Nepal to conduct field work developing the pastoral prediction system as part of the collaborative project “Animal Nutrition Profiles in Transhumant Systems of West Africa and South Asia”.

Scholar Project Impacts



Sustainability of Pastoral and Derivative Systems in the Borana

A shift from pastoral to agro-pastoral farming systems in southern Ethiopia has led to a decline in livestock holding and income per household. Pastoralists relying on cropping have become increasingly vulnerable to frequently occurring harvest failure. This brief presents the results of household surveys and focus group discussions evaluating the socioeconomic and ecological sustainability of these agricultural systems.



Climate Adaptability and Cattle Preference of Forage Plants in Kenya

In an effort to arrest forage scarcity in Northern Kenya, government and non-government organizations are striving to promote forage farming and in-situ forage conservation. This approach requires understanding of the climate adaptability and nutrient content of forage plants preferred by livestock. This Research Brief summarizes the results of focus group discussion, feeding observations, and nutrient analysis indicating the adaptability, nutrient content, and livestock preference for common forage species.



Adoption Level and Determinants to Improve Grass and Forage Legumes in Ethiopia

Feed and nutrition scarcity—especially during drought periods—is a major constraint influencing livestock production in the Borana plateau of southern Ethiopia. In response, research and government institutions have introduced indigenous and exotic grass species and forage legumes into natural pastures and crop farms. This Research Brief assesses the ex-post results of this endeavor and the major socioeconomic, technological and institutional factors determining its adoption.



Hillside Conservation and Income Creation as Adaptation to Climate Change

The increasing threat of climate change coupled with the growing landless populations has pressured the local administration of the Tigray Regional State to develop long-term solutions. Distributing communal mountainous hillside areas to the landless people was one such solution. This Research Brief evaluates the distributed mountain areas to evaluate their adaptive capacity and income creation opportunities for landless cattle owners struggling with climate change's effects.

Congratulations to the Livestock Innovation Lab's Innovator of the Month!



Congratulations to our July Innovator of the Month Melaku Berhe Redda! Melaku is a current East African Scholar enrolled in the Department of Natural Resource Economics and Management at Mekelle University, Ethiopia. A PhD candidate pursuing policy options and appropriate measures for village-based adaptation to climate change read Melaku's interview [here](#) to learn more about his challenges working with pastoralists and the rewarding lessons he has learned from them!

Funding & Fellowship Opportunities

[USAID: The Innovation Fund for Improving Food Security in Ethiopia \(IFSE\)](#)

Deadline: 31 July 2015

The Innovation Fund for Improving Food Security in Ethiopia (IFSE) Ladies and Gentlemen: USAID would like to partner with the private sector, education and research institutions (and organizations working with them) towards improving food security in Ethiopia. This initiative will be used to identify and test innovations that produce cost effective and scalable solutions to addressing the problems Ethiopian households face with regards to food insecurity. The overall objective of this effort is to find ways to accelerate and reduce food insecurity and malnutrition across Ethiopia.

[Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture \(SEARCA\): Research and Training in Food Security](#)

Deadline: 1 August 2015

The Seed Fund for Research and Training (SFRT) is open to individuals in ASEAN member countries for competitive grants up to US\$15 thousand in research and training related to agriculture and rural development.

[Fulbright Scholar Program: Core Program for US Faculty and Professionals 2016-2017](#)

Deadline: 3 August 2015

The Fulbright Scholar Program invites applications from U.S. scholars for research, teaching, and creative arts in an international context. Eligibility criteria include U.S. citizenship and a PhD or equivalent professional degree. The available openings include several in the developing world in subjects related to agriculture, environmental and biological sciences, geography, and others.

[USAID: Uganda Sanitation Program](#)

Deadline: 10 August 2015

USAID/Uganda anticipates awarding a 5-year Agreement with an Estimated Total Cost of \$31,460,000 to accelerate sustainable improvement in quality, access and supply of water and sanitation services, and improve hygiene behaviors in Uganda. This will be achieved by introducing a series of contemporary, integrated water and sanitation interventions at the community and household levels that will lead to three intermediate results: 1. Increased household access to sanitation and water services; 2. Key hygiene behaviors at home, school, and health facilities expanded; 3. Strengthened district water and sanitation governance

[Monsanto Fund: Grants to Strengthen Farming Communities 2015](#)

Deadline: 31 August 2015

The Monsanto Fund makes grants in support of agricultural communities around the world. Grants of US\$25 thousand and more are available to tax-exempt charitable organizations for activities and projects that address farmers' education and training; food security; community water and sanitation; and other local needs. Monsanto's international grants are administered at the country level; interested persons should contact the Fund's national liaison. Monsanto accepts international applications during two periods each year

[Acumen Fund: India Fellows Program 2016](#)

Deadline: 1 September 2015

The Acumen Fund promotes the power of social innovation to create solutions to the world's most pressing problems. Past fellows have included several in smallholder agriculture, renewable energy, waste management, fair trade, and other areas. The Fund administers a program for India.

[Institute of Current World Affairs: Fellowships 2015-2016](#)

Deadline: 1 September 2015

The ICWA makes grants to support Fellows who carry out self-designed independent studies for a minimum of two years in the developing world. U.S. citizenship is not a requirement, but candidates must show strong and credible ties to U.S. society. Areas of particular interest to ICWA include the Arab Middle East and Southeast Asia (especially Indonesia), but candidates may seek fellowships in any country. Among the fellowship categories, the "Forest and Society" fellowships explore the relationship of forest resources to the complex of human factors bearing on their conservation and management

[Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Grants for Development Research 2016](#)

Deadline: 4 September 2015

Through the Danish Fellowship Center, Denmark's Ministry of Foreign Affairs announces funding in support of development research. Applicants in Denmark choose "North Driven" for research and capacity building in the priority countries of Danish international assistance. Applicants in Ghana, Nepal, and Tanzania choose "South Driven." Themes in "South Driven" include climate-smart agriculture and environmentally sustainable solutions, among others.

[USAID Research and Innovation Fellowship Programs](#)

Deadline: Varies, Contact Program Opportunities for More Information

USAID's Research and Innovation Fellowships Program places promising talent from U.S. institutions with host organizations in developing countries to help tackle development challenges and engage in cutting-edge research and innovation. The RI Fellows program invites all HESN Labs to take a look at the catalog containing over 400 host opportunities in these countries. Students can peruse the catalog for opportunities that align with their experience and interests, and contact the host point of contact to discuss a collaboration lasting between 2 and 12 months. If students are successful and choose a project, please notify the RI Fellows program in order to be connected to the broader network of Fellows and hosts by emailing rifellowships@usaid.gov. The RI Fellows program will not be able to fund HESN students to engage in these projects, but strongly encourages students to establish collaborations and seek funding through their university and lab. For more information, visit the Step-by-Step Instructions for how to make a match with a host and how to apply.