

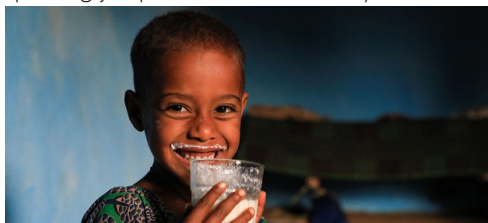
ILRI South Asia newsletter

Issue 3, July 2019

Institutional updates

ILRI 2018 annual report now available

The International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) has published its annual report for 2018, and for the first time in its publication history, the report is primarily online. Going digital was done to save paper; match the best practices of other organizations within CGIAR and, generally speaking, jump into the 21st century.



The ILRI 2018 annual report is available online (photo credit: ILRI).

The report focuses on 10 of ILRI's specific achievements:

1. A novel index to measure **women's empowerment** in livestock production.
2. A rapid, standardized and cost-effective tool for tracking **agricultural performance**.
3. The creation and promotion of a **bioinformatics community** of practice for agricultural sciences in Africa.
4. An **electronic disease surveillance** system to improve early detection of livestock diseases.
5. A program using mobile phone apps and emerging genomics to provide farmers and scientists with the information they need to **improve dairy cattle** in east Africa.
6. A process, adapted from emerging biofuel technology, to convert **straws and stover** into feed concentrates.
7. A program to secure rangelands and **settle conflicts** through village land use planning in Tanzania.
8. The Biosciences eastern and central Africa (BecA)-ILRI Hub efforts to **mentor women** to become future leaders in science.
9. A retrospective of ILRI's participation in **Borlaug-Ruan** high school internship program, as recognized at the 2018 world food prize award.
10. A program in Vietnam to foster South-**South partnerships** to improve food safety in Asia.

Bihar's livestock master plan launched

The 2018-2023 livestock master plan (LMP) of Bihar State, India, will provide evidence-based justification for public and private investments in a set of priority commodity value chains of the Bihar livestock sector.

Shri Nitish Kumar, the chief minister of Bihar, launched the Bihar LMP on 28 January 2019 at Patna, Bihar. The master plan was formulated by the Government of Bihar with technical support from ILRI and funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF).

The livestock sector in Bihar is currently facing a number of technical challenges, which need to be addressed for the sector to play its potential role in the further economic development of Bihar. Some prominent challenges are scarcity of feed and poor feed quality and regulation, poor animal genetic potential to produce animal-source foods, inadequate animal health services, lack of organized and continuous livestock production improvement training, loss of livestock due to natural disasters, and insufficient financial resources for improving the sector.

The LMP is a series of five-year development investment plans or 'roadmaps', to be used to complement the implementation of the Agriculture Road Map of Bihar.



Release of LMP by the dignitaries (photo credit: ILRI).

The launch of the master plan was attended by about 200 delegates including researchers, scholars, development partners, livestock experts, and representatives of government agencies, and the BMGF.



Welcome note

Welcome to the third edition of ILRI's South Asia newsletter!

This newsletter is meant to share key updates of ILRI's activities in South Asia with stakeholders, partners and donors.

I hope you will enjoy reading it and thank you for your strong support to ILRI South Asia.

Learn more about our work at www.asia.ilri.org. If you have any feedback please contact ilri-delhi@cgiar.org.

Habibar Rahman

Regional representative for ILRI South Asia

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research and ILRI renew research partnership

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and ILRI have renewed their partnership for exploring collaborative research opportunities in livestock research to address poverty and safeguard food and nutritional security in the country.

Trilochan Mohapatra, secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and director general of ICAR, and Iain Wright, deputy director general of ILRI, signed in February an agreement on a new work plan between the two institutions for 2019-2022. The signing took place at ICAR in New Delhi.



Trilochan Mohapatra, secretary, DARE and director general, ICAR (left) and Iain Wright, deputy director general ILRI, sign an MoU on a new work plan between ICAR and ILRI (photo credit: ILRI).

Mohapatra said that ILRI and ICAR would support new livestock development programs initiated by the government to improve the livelihood security of smallholder farmers. Wright said the new plan would 'encourage researchers from the two organizations to collaborate and share research findings to further advance India's livestock sector.'

Key areas of research collaboration under the new agreement are animal disease economics, backyard poultry genomics, methane emission and mitigation, improvement of basal feed resources and capacity development among others. Habibar Rahman, ILRI regional representative for South Asia, described the joint projects that will be undertaken by the two organizations from 2019-2022.

ILRI and ICAR finalize 2019-2022 workplan

A follow-up meeting was organized later in February to finalize the work plan of the ICAR-ILRI collaborative projects for 2019-2022 at the National Agricultural Science Complex (NASC) in New Delhi. The discussions centred on finalizing the collaborative research proposals in the prioritized areas of backyard poultry genomics, animal disease economics, methane emission and mitigation, upgradation of feed technology and capacity development.

Member of ILRI Board of Trustee visits India

Chanda Nimbkar, Member, Board of Trustee, ILRI visited ILRI regional office in New Delhi. She discussed with regional staff on on-going projects undertaken by ILRI in India and South Asia. She suggested frequent publication of success stories

of livestock farmers, translation of research findings into local languages to benefit more farmers and strengthening awareness raising programs on small ruminant production, backyard production, impact of health and management of livestock production.

International seminar on animal agriculture for doubling farmers' income

Iain Wright, deputy director general, ILRI and Habibar Rahman, ILRI regional representative for South Asia, attended an international seminar on animal agriculture for doubling farmer's income that was hosted by the Assam Agricultural University on 27-28 February at Guwahati. At the meeting, scientists from ILRI and other institutions discussed various issues and indicators associated with the doubling of farmers' income to prepare a road map that may help to improve the income of Indian farmers.

BMGF delegate visits ILRI

Srivalli Krishnan, senior program officer, BMGF visited ILRI's New Delhi office in April and met with ILRI officials to discuss the implementation of the Bihar LMP and the various livestock development programs funded by BMGF in the country.



From left: Habibar Rahman, ILRI regional representative for South Asia and Srivalli Krishnan, senior program officer, BMGF (photo credit: ILRI).

ILRI-ICAR session on sustainability of livestock and fishery production systems in India

ICAR, ICAR-National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI) and ILRI organized a brainstorming session on the 'sustainability of livestock and fishery production systems in India: issues and indicators' in April at ICAR-NDRI, Karnal.



Researchers from ILRI and ICAR institutes attended the brainstorming session at ICAR-NDRI (photo credit: ILRI).

More than 60 researchers from various ICAR institutes participated in the session and provided some guidelines that will help in the development of sustainable livestock and fishery production systems in the country and in the region.

Shri Chabbilendra Roul, secretary, fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India inaugurated the session and highlighted the various indicators for sustainability and systems approach in livestock and fisheries production system. The issues of sustainability in livestock and fisheries were discussed in five sessions with 19 presentations to prepare a road map on ensuring the sustainability of livestock and fisheries in the country.

CGIAR collaborative project to support Jharkhand

In April, ILRI India researchers met with partners from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), and the International Potato Center (CIP) to explore the possible development of a collaborative project for Jharkhand. Participants discussed an integrated proposal among CGIAR centres and shared it with IFAD and the Jharkhand Tribal Empowerment and Livelihoods Project (JTDS) for review.



From left to right: Uma Shankar Singh, South Asia regional coordinator and India country representative, CIP; Bhujendra Bhaski, State project director, Government of Jharkhand; Rasha Omar, India country representative, IFAD; Virendra Pal Singh, regional representative for South Asia, CIAT; Ashish Anand, Government of Jharkhand; Habibar Rahman, regional representative for South Asia, ILRI; Ved Prakash Srivastava, Government of Jharkhand (photo credit: ILRI).

CGIAR delegates meet minister-special advisor of the president of Niger on South-South collaboration



Ibrahima Guimba-Saïdou (in beige suit), minister-special advisor of the president of Niger met with CGIAR representatives on India to discuss South-South collaboration (photo credit: ILRI).

Representatives from CGIAR centers in India met with Ibrahima Guimba-Saïdou, minister-special advisor of the president of Niger on 21 May 2019 at the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) New Delhi office to discuss the exchange of

knowledge and the India-Africa partnership in agricultural research under South-South collaboration.

Project news

ILRI showcases feed and fodder technologies at 'Krushi Odisha 2019' agricultural fair

In January ILRI took part in the five-day 'Krushi Odisha 2019' agricultural fair. The fair brought together over 15,000 participants and leaders from 120 organizations from across India to share promising and innovative methods, tools and technologies that can help stimulate agricultural and rural development in the country. It was held at the Biju Patnaik Exhibition Ground, in Baramunda, Bhubaneswar, the state capital.



The ILRI's booth was opened by Shashi Bhusan Behera, Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment, Fisheries and Animal Resources Development (F&ARD) minister of Odisha who also inaugurated the fair (photo credit: ILRI).

The ILRI's booth was opened by Shashi Bhusan Behera, Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment, Fisheries and Animal Resources Development (F&ARD) minister of Odisha who also inaugurated the fair (photo credit: ILRI).

ILRI researchers demonstrated different feed and fodder production activities and new animal feed technologies such as silage making, low cost hydroponics and Azolla cultivation. They also showed new and high-yielding fodder varieties grown in Odisha under the 'Feed and fodder production in different agro-climatic zones and its utilization for livestock of Odisha' project. The project is funded by the government of Odisha through its Fisheries and Animal Resource Development Department.

About 1,000 farmers registered their interest with ILRI for further scientific assistance in livestock farming. ILRI leaflets on animal feed and fodder were distributed to farmers to share information on the new technologies associated with livestock feeding and production in the state.

ILRI partners with Odisha State government to support livestock farmers affected by cyclone Fani

ILRI joined hands with the Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services (DAH&VS) of Odisha State, India, to assist rural communities revive livestock farming following the disastrous cyclone Fani that hit the state in early May 2019. Fani, one of the worst tropical cyclones on record in India, caused catastrophic damage to people and animals in Odisha, especially along the state's 485-kilometre-long coast. Sixty-eight people died and hundreds of domestic and wild animals were lost in the disaster, which is estimated to have cost the state INR 120 billion (USD 17.5 billion).

The availability of livestock feeds, especially dry and green fodder in these districts was severely affected by the disaster. To support the affected livestock keepers and help re-establish livestock farming in affected areas, the DAH&VS distributed concentrate feeds for animals, dry fodder such as paddy straw and green fodder such as sorghum and hybrid Napier grass to farmers on 10–20 May 2019. ILRI supported the initiative by supplying seven tonnes of green fodder from demonstration field units in Pipil, Kathpal, Bhanjanagr and Anugul, which are part of the ongoing Feed and fodder production in different agro-climatic zones and its utilization for the livestock of Odisha project.



ILRI gave fodder stems and seeds to affected farmers whose fodder fields were affected by cyclone Fani (photo credit: ILRI).

ILRI also gave fodder stems and seeds to more than 500 farmers whose fodder fields were affected by the storm. These efforts in rescuing the livestock sector of the state were appreciated by the state government of Odisha.

Karnataka State government-CGIAR livestock technologies initiative benefits farmers

Under the ICRISAT-led Government of Karnataka-CGIAR initiative that aims at demonstrating proven livestock technologies for scaling, a series of livestock-based activities were carried out in selected (4-5) villages of four

Bhoosamrudhi districts (Bidar, Udupi, Dharward, Chikballapur) of Karnataka (total 16 villages). Under this collaborative project, ILRI is implementing various activities including feed balancing and the institute has developed an 'on-farm advisory tool' that is currently undergoing field testing using the feed database developed for the three districts of Bidar, Chaikballapur and Dharward.



Distribution of fodder seeds of improved varieties to farmers (photo credit: ILRI).

The project focuses on

- i. Promotion of dual-purpose crops with superior fodder quality NK6240 dual-purpose maize hybrid seeds have been supplied to 93 farmers in three selected districts to cover 47 acres in the Kharif season (Kharif crops are the crops which are sown at the beginning of the rainy season).
- ii. Promotion of forage cultivation where seeds of the promising fodder crop variety COFS29 have been supplied to 58 farmers in three selected districts to cover 29 acres in the Kharif season.
- iii. Production of silage bails in the fodder processing unit in Neelavaram Goshala where enriched silage will be produced using mission grass and legume (groundnut, green gram, mung bean) haulms in the proportion of 65:35 by using the mini baler cum wrapper installed last year. A private feed producer/entrepreneur was also identified to produce enriched silage as a commercial product and supply to dairy farmers in the project district during lean season.



The International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) works to improve food and nutritional security and reduce poverty in developing countries through research for efficient, safe and sustainable use of livestock. Co-hosted by Kenya and Ethiopia, it has regional or country offices and projects in East, South and Southeast Asia as well as Central, East, Southern and West Africa. ilri.org



CGIAR is a global agricultural research partnership for a food-secure future. Its research is carried out by 15 research centres in collaboration with hundreds of partner organizations. cgiar.org

ILRI thanks all donors and organizations which globally support its work through their contributions to the [CGIAR Trust Fund](#)

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