

## Institutional updates

### ILRI and the India Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying discuss priority areas for livestock sector development

In late August 2021, ILRI's Habibar Rahman met Shri Parshottam Rupala Ji, Minister of the Indian Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying (MoFAHD) to submit a letter calling for the G-20 countries to recognize the importance of supporting of animal health and welfare worldwide.

The meeting was also attended by Jyothikumar S Dharmadheeran, chief executive officer at Brooke, a partner of the Action for Animal Health (A4AH) Coalition; Praveen Malik, animal husbandry commissioner at DAHD; and Shri Rakesh Kumar Mishra, personal secretary of the minister of MoFAHD.

Rahman presented ILRI's work in South Asia including the institute's collaborative projects with national and international partners such as the World Bank, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and ICAR. He highlighted ILRI's contribution to the national livestock master plans, climate change mitigation, animal disease economics, feed and fodder development, backyard poultry genomics, AMR, and implementation of One Health initiatives in the country and the region.

Among the highlights of Rahman's presentation was ILRI's support for LMP development process in the Bihar and Odisha states. He also spoke about the institute's experience in developing similar livestock sector development plans for other countries including Kenya, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Tanzania.

ICAR-ILRI collaborative projects were also discussed. ICAR's National Institute of Veterinary Epidemiology and Disease Informatics (NIVEDI) and Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) are working together with ILRI on animal disease economics research and feed and fodder development, including techniques to resolve the issue of straw burning in northern India states.



*Habibar Rahman, ILRI (first from right) and Brig. Dharmadheeran, chief executive officer, Brooke, a partner of the Action for Animal Health (A4AH) Coalition (middle) hand over the letter on G-20 countries to the minister (photo credit: ILRI/Roma Oli).*

### ILRI-NAAS meeting for organisation of strategic consultation

A meeting was organized between the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) and ILRI under the chairmanship of Trilochan Mohapatra, secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), director, Indian Council Of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and president, NAAS on 28 September 2021 to discuss and finalize the proposal for the organization of a NAAS-ILRI-South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARCC) strategic consultation on 'Preparedness for prevention of transboundary infectious diseases in livestock and poultry in South Asia'.

During the meeting, Trilochan Mohapatra released the 7<sup>th</sup> issue of ILRI South Asia newsletter which summarized key activities and achievements of ILRI. He appreciated the cooperation between ICAR-ILRI projects and hope to strengthen the partnership for further achievements.



*Trilochan Mohapatra released the 7th issue of ILRI South Asia newsletter at the meeting (photo credit: ILRI).*



### Welcome note

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

This newsletter shares 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 of ILRI South Asia.

Learn more about our work at [www.asia.ilri.org](http://www.asia.ilri.org). If you have any feedback please contact [ilri-delhi@cgiar.org](mailto:ilri-delhi@cgiar.org)

**Habibar Rahman**  
Regional representative for ILRI South Asia

## ILRI and MoFAHD to work together in livestock master plan development

On 23 July 2021 Shri Atul Chaturvedi, animal husbandry commissioner, and Praveen Malik, chief veterinary officer, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD), MoFAH&D met with Rahman Habibar, ILRI regional representative for South Asia, to explore how ILRI's research in South Asia and India, implemented with state agencies and national or international partners, can be strengthened to enhance livestock development in India.

Projects include the Bihar and Odisha livestock master plans, climate change mitigation, animal disease economics, feed and fodder development, backyard poultry genomics, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and One Health.

ILRI's work on the disease economics of peste des petits ruminants (PPR) was of particular interest to the ministry. The commissioner noted the annual animal losses from PPR cost farmers close to 8,000 crores. He said the ministry was keen to tackle the impact of the disease in the country.

Rahman explained the importance of the Bihar and Odisha livestock master plan (LMP) projects and how they can be replicated elsewhere in India. The ICAR-ILRI project on feed and fodder was presented as an example of a collaboration that has helped reduce straw wasting in northern Indian states.

Rahman later met Shri Upamanya Basu, joint secretary at the DAHD and MoFAHD, to explore collaboration with ILRI. He said that the two institutions will discuss how to strengthen involvement of pastoralists in the vaccination of small ruminants to tackle PPR.

Follow-up meetings will be held between the ministry and ILRI to agree on next steps in the collaboration.



*Habibar Rahman wearing the traditional gamosa from Assam, with Shri Atul Chaturvedi (on the left) and Praveen Malik (on the right) (photo credit: ILRI).*

## Consultation meetings in Bangladesh and India for the new One CGIAR initiative on One Health

In August 2021, CGIAR conducted consultations in Bangladesh and India with members of the government and researchers to discuss a proposed CGIAR initiative to protect human health through a One Health approach. It is one of over 30 new initiatives being developed by CGIAR for its 2030 research and innovation strategy.

All initiatives will operate by collaboration with key partners to identify challenges and research foci, and to

design and learn throughout the innovation process.

The development of the One Health initiative is being led by a team of scientists from four CGIAR research centres—ILRI, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and WorldFish—in collaboration with external research partners from Centre Suisse de Recherches Scientifiques en Côte d'Ivoire, EcoHealth Alliance, and the University of Liverpool.

To ensure alignment of the proposed initiative with national priorities, the team convened a series of online consultative meetings with research collaborators to gain insights on the main One Health priorities, challenges, interventions and partner organizations in the respective countries.

Stakeholders discussed how the One Health initiative can deliver more impacts and better address challenges to ensure sustainable solutions that will improve human health in the future and ensure an integrated response to local demands.



*Stakeholders discuss key challenges and priority interventions to improve zoonosis control in Bangladesh on Iamboard platform (photo credit: ILRI).*

ILRI Director General Jimmy Smith delivered a lecture at the 15<sup>th</sup> Agricultural Science Congress

Jimmy Smith delivered a lecture on 'Energy and dairy in India: Opportunities in the context of demand' at the plenary session of the 15<sup>th</sup> Agricultural Science Congress, a biennial event of the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS, India). The event was organized at the Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi from 13-16 November 2021. The theme of the Congress was 'Energy and Agriculture: Challenges in 21<sup>st</sup> Century'. In his lecture, Smith highlighted the important role of the dairy sector to national and agricultural GDP in South Asian countries, and particularly within India. He described the opportunities of the energy and dairy sector in the context of demand, including maximizing positive contribution to energy through use of manure, biogas and draught power, improving production efficiency for optimal energy use, and reducing wasted energy.

## Project news

## Reproductive health and mastitis management piloted under the World Bank-funded APART project

ILRI organized two reproductive health and mastitis management camps in Assam, with the support of the Dairy Development Department (DDD) and the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department (AHVD, Assam). The



camps were part of the World Bank-funded Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART), and were organized in the Maloibari area of Kamrup (Metropolitan) district on 7 September, and the Nortap area of Kamrup (Metropolitan) district on 14 September. Under the pilot initiative, the reproductive health of dairy animals belonging to 100 dairy farmers in the areas was checked and treated by five experienced veterinarians from AHVD, Assam Agricultural University (AAU) and ILRI. It is proposed to organize such camps in the area every three months over the next 18 months to track the reproductive health status of dairy animals. The outcomes of the initiative will be evaluated in terms of health, reproductive performance, and economic benefits. The model is planned to be replicated subsequently throughout the APART project districts.



*Veterinarian of ILRI and the Dairy Development Department check reproductive health of animal in Maloibari. (photo credit: ILRI).*

## Demonstration of fodder cultivation in Assam

In November 2021, ILRI piloted a demonstration of fodder cultivation among 40 dairy farmers under the APART project in Assam. A total of 50 kg of Khan Mishri fodder seeds and 50 kg of Makhon grass seeds were given to farmers in two clusters who cultivated both fodder varieties in 18 hectares of land. Baseline information of all beneficiary farmers was collected. The growth and production data of the fodder crops will be collected to analyze their production performance and economics. It is planned to supply new varieties of fodder seeds at the end of the first crop to ensure yearlong green fodder availability. It is also planned to demonstrate silage and haylage-making among the groups for fodder preservation.



*Farmers in Maloibari cluster receive fodder seeds from APART project (photo credit: ILRI).*

## Capacity development

### ILRI and ICAR partners conduct hands-on training on reducing methane emissions from livestock

Twenty-two researchers from the ICAR institutes, State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) and Bharatiya Agro Industries Foundation (BAIF), participated in a lecture series and hands-on training program focused on methane emissions in the livestock sector from 26-28 October 2021. The training was co-hosted by ILRI and ICAR at the National Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology (NIANP), Bengaluru.

For the first part of the training, 10 experts from the Netherlands, the USA, Canada, Australia, Japan, Kenya and Thailand, and 10 experts from India delivered virtual lectures from 2-12 October 2021 on aspects of rumen methanogenesis including methane quantification and modelling, ameliorative strategies, hydrogenotrophy, thermodynamics, molecular and bioinformatics.

Polly Erickson, leader of the Sustainable Livestock Systems Program at ILRI, introduced the term climate-smart agriculture and explained how this concept can be applied in livestock production. She noted that livestock systems are more complex than crops and that gender and social equity issues are central to climate change adaptation.

Praveen Malik, Animal Husbandry Commissioner at the MoFAH&D (India) applauded the joint efforts of ILRI and ICAR and emphasized the importance of periodically updating the statewide enteric methane emission inventory developed by the ICAR-National Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology, Bangalore. He praised the National Technology Commercialization Program, known as the Agnii program, which showcases India's best innovations for field validation of technologies developed by the ICAR institutes, and connects researchers to emerging entrepreneurs.

After the training, the participants expressed satisfaction with the program and said that the technology they learned will be utilized in their organizations to reduce methane emission. They intend to coordinate with NIANP and ILRI for further collaboration.



*Raghavendra Bhatta (left), H Rahman (middle) and Praveen Malik (right) presenting the training certificate of participation to a trainee (Photo credit: ILRI).*

### ILRI organized training of trainers (TOT) program to improve pork safety in Assam

In September 2021, 61 veterinary officers of the Animal

Husbandry and Veterinary Department (AHVD, Assam), were trained on improving hygienic practices in slaughterhouses, handling pork in the traditional market, and business principles for pork retailers. After attending the training, AHVD staff will deliver training to pork retailers of the state under the APART project to improve quality and safety of retailed pork.

## Staff update

### ILRI's Ram Pratim Deka served as a mission team member to the World Bank-funded One Health project in India

Ram Pratim Deka, ILRI scientist, served as a member of the World Bank mission constituted by the World Bank for consultation with the MoFAHD (India) and its concerned institutes to design a new project on One Health, to be potentially funded by the World Bank from October 2021. ILRI may be engaged in the project as a knowledge partner.

## Staff given long-term service award

Ram Pratim Deka, scientist-cum-research management coordinator, Braja Bandhu Swain, research project coordinator, and Roma Oli, administrative officer received long-term service award from ILRI headquarters in a townhall meeting held in late December 2021.



From left: Ram Pratim Deka, scientist-cum-research management coordinator; Braja Bandhu Swain, research project coordinator and Roma Oli, administrative officer; ILRI South Asia (photo credit: ILRI).



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](http://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](http://cgiar.org)

ILRI thanks all donors that support its work through their contributions to the global [CGIAR Trust Fund](#)

Patron: Professor Peter C Doherty AC, FAA, FRS

Animal scientist, Nobel Prize Laureate for Physiology or Medicine—1996

Box 30709, Nairobi 00100 Kenya  
Phone +254 20 422 3000  
Fax +254 20 422 3001  
Email [ilri-kenya@cgiar.org](mailto:ilri-kenya@cgiar.org)

[ilri.org](http://ilri.org)  
better lives through livestock

ILRI is a CGIAR research centre

Box 5689, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Phone +251 11 617 2000  
Fax +251 11 667 6923  
Email [ilri-ethiopia@cgiar.org](mailto:ilri-ethiopia@cgiar.org)

ILRI has offices in East Africa • South Asia • Southeast and East Asia • Southern Africa • West Africa



This publication is copyrighted by the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI). It is licensed for use under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License. January 2022