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Background

Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) is a key priority of the African Development Bank's (AfDB) agenda for agricultural transformation, also known as the Feed Africa Strategy. The goal of this strategy is to adequately feed 150 million people, take 100 million people out of poverty and restore 190 million hectares of land to productivity.

TAAT is a knowledge and innovation-based response to the recognized need for scaling up proven technologies across Africa aimed at boosting productivity and making Africa self-sufficient in food production. It leverages technologies in nine agricultural value chains and six enablers operating in 27 African countries.

TAAT's commodity compacts are maize, cassava, rice, beans, wheat, sorghum and millet, orange fleshed sweet potato (OFSP) and livestock; while the enabling compacts include youth, water, soil fertility, policy, capacity development, and fall armyworm control. These compacts are led by different CGIAR institutions and development partners. The International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) leads the livestock compact, with initial focus on upscaling technologies in small livestock, specifically poultry, sheep and goats.



Photo credit: ILRI/Apollo Habtamu

Overview of the livestock compact

Livestock supports the livelihood of about 1.3 billion people in developing countries and contributes up to 30 per cent of the agriculture Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of countries in sub-Saharan Africa, mainly through the provision of meat, milk, eggs, wool and hides and skins. Demand for livestock products in sub-Saharan Africa is increasing, rapidly fueled by growing population, urbanization and improved incomes leading to shifts in diets towards high value commodities such as meat and milk. Livestock supports family incomes, food security and gender empowerment. It is a source of readily convertible cash and insurance against crop failure.

The objective of the TAAT livestock compact is to increase the productivity and profitability of small animal value chains through upscaling innovations in livestock genetics, feed, health, production systems, policy and marketing. The TAAT program is expected to unleash the Regional Technology Delivery Infrastructure with an emphasis on innovations cutting across agro-ecological zones.

Selected value chains and technologies

The TAAT livestock compact will work across value chains in the small ruminants and poultry sectors by scaling a selected number of proven technologies for more efficient, gender inclusive and sustainable sheep, goats and poultry production.

TAAT delivery will use best practices and approaches with carefully selected and mostly already existing partnerships between ILRI, ICARDA and CIAT, and the public and private sectors to make these technologies available, accessible, attractive and profitable for livestock keepers and other value chain actors.

The poultry value chain

The poultry value chain will benefit more than 100,000 households with economic returns estimated at USD60 million.

A non-exhaustive list of key technologies for scaling in poultry value chains includes:

- Scaling the dissemination of improved poultry genetics in collaboration with the African Chicken Genetics Gain (ACGG) project.
- Introduction of brooder enterprises to deliver 21–30-day old chicks to reduce mortality risks at smallholder production level.
- Promoting widespread use of effective Thermostable Newcastle disease vaccine.
- Supporting women and youth entrepreneurs to own medium scale poultry and small ruminants enterprises.
- Supporting the production of high-quality cassava peels mash for livestock feed and import substitution.

The small ruminant value chain

In the small ruminant value chain, TAAT will scale up proven technologies that enhance improved and economically beneficial sheep and goat fattening practices. More than 130,000 households will benefit from sheep and goat fattening with an estimated economic return of more than USD10.7 million a year.

A non-exhaustive list of key technologies for scaling in small ruminant value chains includes:

- Promoting Thermostable vaccine for Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR).
- Promoting improved forages, feed supplements and better use of crop residues for fattening.
- Strengthening business models for fattening enterprises.
- Improving small ruminants genetics through community breeding schemes.



Photo credit: ILRI/ Adeniyi Adediran

Expected outcomes

TAAT envisages that livestock farmers, including women and the youth, will have better access to technology scaling techniques, micro-finance and markets, leading to nutrition security and improved household income. TAAT will build synergy with partners and promote improved policy environment for upscaling technologies in line with the AfDB Feed Africa objectives.

Target countries

The livestock compact activities will be initially implemented in Ethiopia, Mali and Nigeria with prospects for extending activities into Kenya, Zambia, Mozambique, Cameroon and other countries that may be interested in accessing AfDB loans.

Partners

An initial list of partners (Dec. 2019) includes:

ILRI (as the lead), ICARDA, CIAT, IITA, USAID Feed The Future Mali Livestock Technology Scaling program (FTF-MLTSP), IFAD, IDB, USAID Feed The Future Africa RISING, Ethio-chicken, EIAR, SARI, DARC, KYEEMA, ACGG Ethiopia, CRS and AMEDD Mali, Synergos, BIF Nigeria and other TAAT compacts.

Partnership is key to TAAT and we welcome alignment with other development partners. Please reach out to explore.

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