

FOOD & BUSINESS APPLIED RESEARCH FUND

Healthy Cows – Healthy Food – Healthy Environment: Enhancing safety and quality of milk in Ethiopia”

Consortium Members

Dr Getachew Gebru , ESAP, President
Project Coordinator

Daniel Temesgen, Project lead
Emebet Belayneh Project Assistant
Ethiopian Society of Animal Production
(ESAP)

Dr. M.J. Groot PhD
Wageningen University & Research, RIKILT
Netherlands

Drs. K. van 't Hooft
Dutch Farm Experience, Netherlands

Mariel Pikkemaat
Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Ethiopia

Project description

This project implements and embeds the best practices for producing healthy milk through implementation of the NLF 5-layered strategy at farm level and empowering women. It focuses on strengthen the capacity for milk quality and safety control using training of trainers on residue analysis skill. Using medicinal herbs for reduction of the use of antibiotic, educate women farmers to tend herbal gardens to make extra income and Knowledge sharing through interaction between farmers’ and scientists

This is a collaboration project towards a system change in dairy farming in Ethiopia, in which the dominant focus on increasing milk quantity for the growing population is strategically combined with improving milk quality – and involving women in tending animals health by using herbal remedies. The overall goal of this proposal therefore is: To enhance safety and quality of milk in Ethiopia through applied research & capacity building at four levels:

1. Empowering of women to get income out of herbal gardens selling herbs to improve animal health leading to production of residue-free milk, and,
2. Training of trainers for milk quality control,
3. Establishing baseline data on residues and
4. Raising awareness on AMR.

The project aims to stimulate innovation by: (1) piloting the Centre of Expertise for Natural Livestock Farming (NLF) strategy to produce milk without chemical residues and (2) strengthening the capacity for milk quality control (3) empowering women to grow and process herbs for remedies to heal cattle and reduce the use of antibiotics.

Method: Improving milk quality is done through education (training of trainers) and implementing of appropriate milk quality testing techniques and is combined with data gathering and field-pilots with a strategy towards producing residue-free milk. Growing medicinal herbs which can supply extra income for women will be used to reduce the use of antibiotics. Both processes, and the inter-linkages between them, will require a minimum of three years. Co-creation of knowledge and sciences is achieved through interaction between farmers’ and scientists within Ethiopia, Netherlands and India.

