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Title: The African Civet Cat (*Viverra civetta*) and Its Life Supporting Role in the Livelihood of Smallholder Farmers in Ethiopia

- **Background: Ethiopia has 90% international export share and a long-lasting history of civet musk farming from civets kept in captivity.**
- **Objectives: to review prospect and retrospect of captive civet cats farming in Ethiopia.**

### African civet cat

- Grouped under order *Carnivora* and family *Viverridae*
- Nocturnal, solitary
- Opportunistic omnivorous
- Age at sexual maturity ~ 1 year
- Gestation length 65 - 75 days
- Average lifespan 15-20 years
- Kits/ litter ~ 1-4 & 2-3 litters/year

### • Opportunities:

- ❖ Natural musk covers 22% of the international demand
- ❖ Preferred for high quality perfume production
- ❖ Source of export earning, way of life for farmers



### • Threats:

- ✓ demand and price fluctuations
- ✓ considerable mistreatment
- ✓ declining of the wild population
- ✓ increasing tendencies towards synthetic fixatives
- ✓ Welfare problem

**Recommendation:** Extensive studies in wild and captivity and improving the husbandry practices leading towards domestication