# ABSTRACT

*INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE OF LIVESTOCK HUSBANDRY AND ETHNO VETERINARY PRACTICES IN ETHIOPIA*

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*Indigenous knowledge is local knowledge that exists and buildup through experiences of the local community in the day-to-day practice and it is economically inexpensive. Farmers use their indigenous knowledge from time immemorial till today, thus it gives a good solution for their problems. However, in many parts of the world this knowledge is not well studied, analyzed and documented to be used as a basis for farming system development. Therefore, this study was conducted with the objectives of identifying and documenting farmers’ indigenous knowledge in livestock husbandry, and ethno veterinary practices in Ethiopia. Districts from Northern part of Ethiopia were purposively selected based on its contrasting agro-ecologies (lowland, midland, and highland) and potential of being the source of traditionally knowledgeable peoples who for generations have been associated with livestock rearing. Farmers practice various indigenous methods of overcoming feed quality problems, trait selections for breeding, and conserving animal products. Seventeen animal diseases and 38 ailments were recorded in the study areas. Sixty five medicinal plants were accordingly documented to treat those diseases. About 83% of the highland, 75 % of the midland and 92.7% of the lowland farmers acquire ethno veterinary knowledge from their old parents. Of the total medicinal plants (81 %) were wild by their nature.* *Traditional medicines mainly prepared from leaves (51%) and mainly administered as oral drenching (47%)*. Farmers perceive that the indigenous medicines have its own effect as they may not be given with optimal doses. *As most of the medicinal plants are grown as wild species, it is very important to promote conservation in ex-situ and in-situ situations. Further biological studies should be conducted on the efficacy, their optimal doses. To promote best indigenous practices and avoid unnecessary secrecies patent right schemes should be in place.*

**Key words**: Indigenous knowledge, Ethno-veterinary, Agro-ecology, Livestock-husbandry, Medicinal plants