



INITIATIVE ON  
Sustainable Animal  
Productivity



# Innovative Approaches for Sustainable Supply of Knowledge & Inputs to Livestock Farmers

Varijaksha Padmakumar<sup>1</sup>, Nils Teufel<sup>1</sup>,  
Yanamani Nepal<sup>1</sup>, Braja Swain<sup>1</sup>,  
James Rao<sup>1</sup> – <sup>1</sup>ILRI



## The Challenge

- Objective: Improve livelihoods through increasing dairy productivity with knowledge, inputs & services.
- Problem: Public extension very limited and private suppliers focus only on specific products.
- Question: How to sustainably provide more effective support to farmers?



## The Innovation



- Identify local livestock experts
- Train them in business development and improved dairy management
- They will then
  - Be linked to dairy coops
  - Establish network to upstream suppliers
  - Provide farmers with information and sell bundled inputs & services
  - Provide services for local administration



## The Pilot



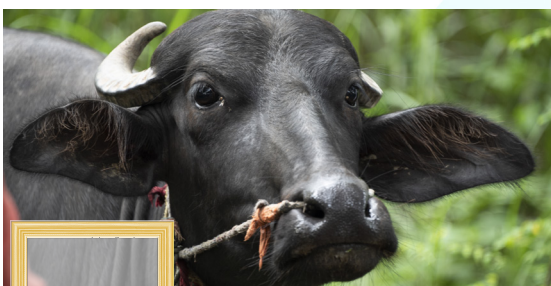
- 6 districts in Nepal's Eastern Lowland
- > 50 Village Livestock Promoters (VLP)
- Coops provide access to farmers
- Training by local partner
- Technologies for dairy buffaloes:
  - Feeding advice with digital tool
  - Health support focusing on fertility
  - Promotion of AI
- Income from public interventions (fertility clinics, animal registration)
- Pre-pilot with 10 VLPs, coops report improved milk production and fertility



## The Research



- VLPs split into 2 cohorts @ 14 VLPs
- Staggered inclusion into programme
- Data sources:
  - Monitoring of VLP business & development activities
  - Base- & endline surveys, 1000 potential VLP customers
- Investigated outcomes:
  - VLP business success
  - Farmer adoption of technologies
  - Dairy productivity improvement
- Results expected for Q4 2024



## The Bigger Picture

- Similar approaches are being implemented in Tanzania and Kenya
- Comparable research designs to determine effects of training approaches & business models
- Gender balance can be difficult to achieve

## Resources and Contacts

Takahashi, K., Muraoka, R., & Otsuka, K. (2020). Technology adoption, impact, and extension in developing countries' agriculture: A review of the recent literature. *Agricultural Economics* DOI: 10.1111/agec.12539

Yitayew, A., Abdulai, A., Yigezu, Y. A., Deneke, T. T., & Kassie, G. T. (2021). Impact of agricultural extension services on the adoption of improved wheat variety in Ethiopia: A cluster randomized controlled trial. *World Development*, DOI: 10.1016/j.worlddev.2021.105605

Email: v.padmakumar@cgiar.org, n.teufel@cgiar.org

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