

New Tools to Improve Farmyard Biodiversity

ILRI released the second editions of two state-of-the-art information and training resources for managing animal genetic resources in developing countries: the Domestic Animal Genetic Resources Information System, a comprehensive database of local breeds, and a one-stop Animal Genetics Training Resource.

ICAR-ILRI Plan Collaborations in Delhi

In January ILRI, the Indian Council for Agricultural Research and major development agencies in India conducted a high-level meeting in Delhi to map out future collaboration in livestock research on the sub-continent.



Doctors and Vets Unite to Fight 'Africa's Oldest Enemy'

In June ILRI, the Doyle Foundation and a research consortium funded by the Wellcome Trust invited medical and veterinary experts to a 4-day workshop to better combat African trypanosomosis, or sleeping sickness, an 'orphan' disease killing people and cattle across a third of the African continent.

Ethiopian Herders Risk Floods to Save Their Cattle

Heavy rains in Ethiopia followed the Horn of Africa's worst drought in 22 years; Ethiopians stranded on outcrops surrounded by rising waters refused to be rescued without their farm animals.

ILRI and AU-IBAR Support 37 African Countries to Diagnose Bird Flu

With substantial support from the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), ILRI and the Africa Union-Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources provided 80 laboratory staff from across Africa with specialized knowledge in rapid detection of highly pathogenic avian influenza.

ILRI and ICRAF Align Services

ILRI and its sister Nairobi-based CGIAR institute, the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), are aligning services to increase institutional efficiencies so as to release more resources for their research programs; a joint ILRI-ICRAF Research Methods Group was started this year.



African Animal Feeds Database Launched

In October the ILRI-led Systemwide Livestock Programme published on the web the most comprehensive and authoritative resource on the nutritional values of African livestock feeds.



ILRI Facilitates Regional Plan for Eastern and Southern Africa

ILRI continued to lead CGIAR Alliance efforts to develop regional plans by CGIAR centres and their partners for collective action in eastern and southern Africa; four collective flagship research projects are under development.

Belgian Senators Visit Kenya & ILRI Project

In May a group of Belgian senators visited Kenya's Parliament and toured Belgian-funded projects, including one ILRI conducts with Maasai herders in Kitengela, a wildlife-rich rangeland on the outskirts of Nairobi.

ILRI Receives Strong Endorsement by External Experts

ILRI's second External Program and Management Review reported in October that ILRI is holistically and effectively addressing livestock-related problems relevant to the poor, an 'orphan component of international agricultural research'.

LEAD Launches *Livestock's Long Shadow*

At a conference in Bangkok in November, the inter-institutional Livestock, Environment and Development Initiative, on whose steering committee ILRI sits, launched a high-profile report synthesizing information on the environmental and related impacts of global livestock production.



Beijing Hosts Livestock-for- Development Professionals

In mid-April ILRI supported a Beijing meeting of 500 livestock experts promoting international cooperation in livestock services to enhance rural development; China's livestock production, in big transition, reached USD162 billion in 2005, about 35% of China's agricultural output.

White Papers Cite ILRI Research Linking Climate Vulnerability and Poverty

A new strategy for the Department for International Development and the UK's Stern Review on Climate Change were among the high-profile White Papers using and quoting ILRI analyses mapping Africa's climate vulnerability hotspots.

Make Poverty History Stalls

Progress in meeting a series of high-level and highly promoted initiatives launched in 2005 to address poverty and hunger stalled, with many donor agencies failing to honour their financial commitments and suspension of the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations working for fairer deals for developing countries.

ILRI Wins 6 CGIAR Awards

ILRI captured 6 CGIAR Science Awards this year: Outstanding Scientific Article (published in *Science* by ILRI and partners at The Institute for Genomic Research); Outstanding Partnership with a Civil Society Organization (conducted with the Kitengela Ilparakuo Landowners Association, in Kenya); 2 honourable mentions for Outstanding Photography; and, with the CGIAR genebank community and libraries, 1 Outstanding Partnership and 1 Scientific Support prize, respectively.



ILRI Expands Its Global Footprint

In September, ILRI's new Scottish representative for Asia, Iain Wright, took up residence in New Delhi, replacing Bill Thorpe, who had opened the ILRI Delhi office in 2004; in July a new ILRI representative for southern Africa, Zimbabwean Siboniso Moyo, opened an ILRI office in Maputo while Lucy Lapar, from The Philippines, opened an ILRI office in Hanoi.



ILRI and IFPRI Call for Bird Flu Task Force

An international conference held in Nairobi in June by ILRI and the International Food Policy Research Institute recommended establishing an international task force to coordinate bird flu research that takes developing-country contexts into account.

Landmark Paper Published in PNAS

In February ILRI researchers published a landmark paper in the *American Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* on their use of state-of-the-art genomics to hunt for proteins of the East Coast fever parasite that are promising candidates for a vaccine against this cattle-killing disease.

Livestock 'Water Productivity' a Boon to the Poor

A CGIAR and partner report on the *Comprehensive Assessment of Water Use and Management in Agriculture* released during World Water Week in Stockholm in August makes the case for 'livestock water productivity' in developing countries.

CAAS-CGIAR Strengthen China-CGIAR Partnership

In early April the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences and ILRI and the CGIAR held a high-level consultation that included roundtable discussions on ways to strengthen research partnerships between China and the CGIAR.



ILRI Bioinformatics becomes Specialist Node of EMBnet

Bioinformatics research and training at ILRI, including a high-performance computing facility managed as a shared facility by Biosciences eastern and central Africa, was strengthened by ILRI's acceptance this year as a specialist node of the prestigious European Molecular Biology Network.

Canada Releases Second-Phase Funding for BecA

The Canadian Government released funds for the second phase of development of the hub of a new regional research platform, Biosciences eastern and central Africa.

World's Most Diverse Forage Collection Comes under New Treaty

World leaders in agricultural research on 16 October signed agreements to guarantee long-term access to some of the world's most important collections of agricultural biodiversity, including accessions maintained in the ILRI Forage Genebank.

ILRI Hosts Consultations on *World Development Report 2008*

In November ILRI hosted two days of consultation on the 2008 edition of the World Bank's flagship publication, *World Development Report*, dedicated to *Agriculture for Development*, a sign that agriculture is back on the front burner of development and political agendas.



ILRI and Wellcome Develop FMD Roadmap

ILRI and the Wellcome Trust held a workshop in Agra, India, in December, where 55 experts in foot-and-mouth disease met to develop a technology 'roadmap' for better controlling FMD in developing countries.



Policymakers and Scientists Rethink Pastoral Pathways out of Poverty

At a conference held in Nairobi in June, ILRI brought policymakers and scientists together to discuss ways to promote pastoral pathways out of poverty in East Africa's neglected arid lands.

World Bank Parliamentary Network Visits Kenya and ILRI Project

Members of a World Bank Parliamentary Network came to Kenya in September and with 7 Kenyan parliamentarians visited ILRI and the World Agroforestry Centre and ILRI's pastoral project in Kitengela and other field projects.