



PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Resilient African Feed and Fodder Systems Stakeholder Initiation and Consultative Workshop in Naivasha, Kenya

Naivasha, Kenya, 24 July 2023.

The African Union-InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation have organised a workshop for the Resilient African Feed and Fodder Systems (RAFFS) Project.

The stakeholders initiation and consultative workshop will be held in Naivasha, Kenya, from 24th to 28th July 2023.

The RAFFS Project is a collaborative effort to address the adverse effects of recent global crises, the triple C's (Covid -19, Climate change shocks, and the Conflict between Russia and Ukraine) on African feed and fodder systems. These crises have led to significant losses of livestock, eroded livelihoods, increased prices of essential livestock-sourced foods, and exposed vulnerabilities in the African feed and fodder input and supply chains.

The project's goal is to understand the impact of these crises on the feed and fodder sector and implement evidence-driven short-term solutions to enhance access to affordable and quality feed, critical for sustaining animal-sourced food production. Additionally, the project aims to empower women in the feed and fodder sector, support strategic partnerships, attract investment, and reform policies and institutions to build a more resilient and sustainable feed and fodder industry.

“Mostly, the farmer has been left to deal with the feed and fodder production. The government provides an enabling environment for them to do well. They however, need more support. In Kenya, over 2.5 million livestock was lost in the recent drought that ravaged the Horn of Africa. Kenya Development Corporation is giving loans to farmers to support the feed and fodder productions and more farmers can access loans which is a step in the right direction,” Dr. Christopher Wanga, Director of Livestock Policy Research and Regulations, State Department for livestock Ministry of agriculture Livestock and Fisheries.

The specific objectives of the workshop include:

- Initiate stakeholders on the RAFFS Project and create buy-in on the Project's approaches, results, and activities.
- Conduct a mini survey, value chain analysis, stakeholder analysis, and stocktaking to understand the effect of the crises on the feed and fodder sub-sector.
- Characterize the sector, and identify existing emergency and short-term initiatives to avoid duplication and ensure synergy.
- Identify relevant and impactful interventions to fast-track emergency response efforts and discuss the draft project indicators, baselines, and monitoring and evaluation framework.
- Facilitate consultations on implementation modalities for efficiency, efficacy, and impact.
- Review the proposed assessment of the effect of the crises on the feed and fodder sector, including the conceptual framework and tools for the assessment in each member state.

Dr. Annie Lewa, AU-IBAR's Senior Projects and Programs Officer, AU-IBAR. The project presents an opportunity for getting new knowledge and innovations for the feed and fodder sector. It presents an opportunity to look at what innovations can be better utilised to support Livestock Sources Feeds. As we draw close to the Malabo declaration in 2025, it's now imperative that we account on how livestock sector has fared against key targets. So far only 4 member states are on track towards achieving the targets.”

“When reading global reports, the nexus with global warming and livestock needs new information on feed and fodder in Africa. It's important that this knowledge is shared. Scientific publications blame antimicrobial resistance on animals, some other reports blame livestock for global warming. It's critical that scientists generate new information. It's important to document the science behind the production systems in open rangelands and how the emissions in the wild are converted and to what extent animals are being contaminated through the release of methane from their metabolism,” Dr. Christopher Wanga.

“An estimated 8.9 million livestock in the Horn of Africa was lost during the recent drought. The drought obliterated a financial equivalent of over half a billion dollars (USD 0.5 billion) which shows a huge market failure. Huge genetic resources developed over decades, key to adaptation to climate change and for the lives hoods and incomes especially among pastoralists and animal holders who produce over 80 to 90% of meat and milk.” Dr. Sarah Ashanut Ossiya, RAFFS Project Officer RAFFS AU-IBAR.

The expected outputs of the workshop include: increased awareness and buy-in of the RAFFS Project across the African continent; a better understanding of the effect of the crises on the feed and fodder sector, identification of relevant and impactful interventions, and preliminary project modalities for coordinated implementation.

The Stakeholder Initiation Workshop will bring together key stakeholders from the African continent to deliberate on the project's approach, results, and activities. It will provide a platform for stakeholders to collaborate and chart a path forward towards building resilient African feed and fodder systems.

For more information about the RAFFS Project See link [here](#)

About AU-IBAR:

The African Union-InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) is mandated to lead and support livestock development across the continent.

About the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation: The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation works to help all people lead healthy, productive lives, focused on improving people's health and giving them the chance to lift themselves out of hunger and extreme poverty.



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