

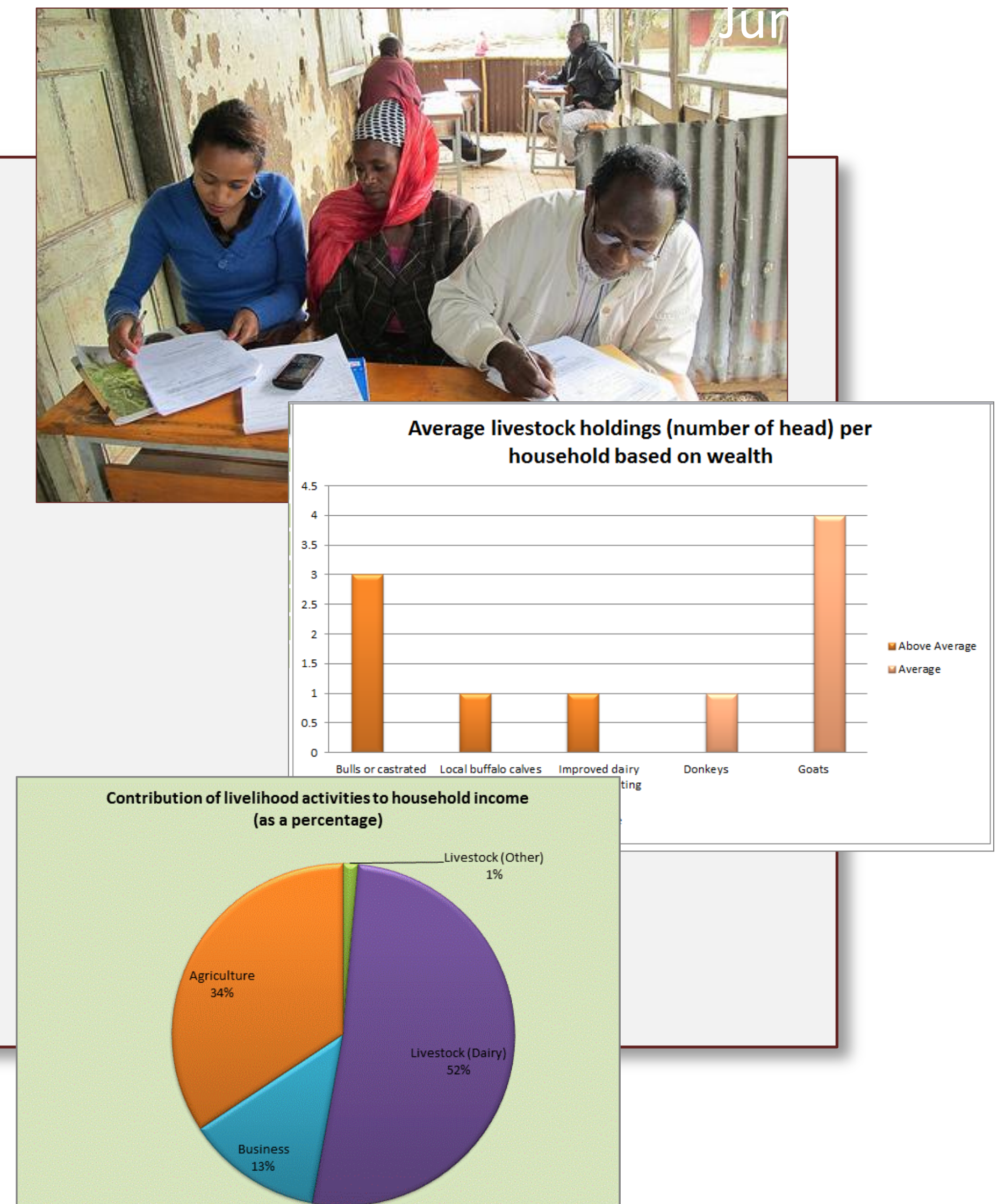
# Leveraging instructional design to improve productivity in smallholder systems: The FEAST experience

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## Empowering research practitioners with tools and training

Scientists at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) designed a collection of electronic forms known as the Feed Assessment Tool (FEAST) to provide research and development practitioners a more systematic means of developing and assessing feed-related strategies. To support adoption of the FEAST Tool, ILRI has launched a learning development initiative to help practitioners develop the necessary skills (computer literacy, data analysis, report writing, research methods) to effectively apply the tool in their work. To help reach a wider audience, the training will be available in both classroom and online formats.



## Applying the principles of instructional design

Our redesigned training courses:

- Actively involve learners through discussions and hands-on activities
- Define lesson and course objectives per Bloom's Taxonomy, which calls for learners to demonstrate mastery of skills in ways a facilitator can observe and verify
- Re-sequence lessons to improve comprehension and retention
- Introduce new class materials, featuring a consistent structure where lessons begin with objectives and key terminology and conclude with review questions to check for understanding

## Expected results

- Delivery of a **more effective learning experience** to more participants in less time than current methods allow
- **Consistency and accuracy of instruction** even if less experienced facilitators are enlisted to deliver the classes
- Enabling participants to complete **self-guided lessons on basic skills and concepts** online, allowing instructor-led portions to focus on more advanced application of skills and concepts
- **Potentially allow for entire course to be completed online**, easing travel and logistical burden on participants, ILRI staff

## Harnessing the power of e-learning

We introduce new media and technologies to support the learning experience:

- Audio/visual versions of lessons for online delivery
- Interactive eLearning activities and computer-based quizzes/surveys
- Learning Management System (LMS) to host online lessons and track learner progress
- Stand-alone content player for classrooms without reliable Internet access

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