



AgriFoSe2030

Agriculture for Food Security 2030
- Translating science into policy and practice



ILRI and AgriFoSe2030 support Kenyan scientists to disseminate their research in a policy dialogue and dissemination forum

Over the past one-year, ILRI and AgriFoSe2030 program have been nurturing a network of young scientists to sustainably support the development, implementation, and evaluation of policies in support of agriculture and food security in Kenya.

The scientists are recent PhD graduates drawn from local Kenyan universities and research institutes. They have been trained on broad areas of policy processes and analyses through a series of % technical workshops and mentorship by experienced policy analysts and practitioners. In the process of mentorship, they have been developing policy briefs drawn from their research. Following this initiative, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Irrigation in collaboration with the Kenya Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (SAKSS) and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), organized policy dialogue and dissemination forum for scientists to engage with policy makers and share their policy messages. The forum was held at Sarova Panafric Hotel in Nairobi on September 25th, 2018.

A total of 55 participants attended the forum. They were drawn from government ministries and departments and universities. The occasion was graced by the Principal Secretary, State Department of Livestock, Mr. Harry Kimutai (Guest of Honor) who represented the Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Irrigation.



The overall objective of the forum was to provide the young scientists an opportunity to engage with policy makers and disseminate their research findings to inform policy making in Kenya. Specifically, the meeting aimed at: providing an opportunity for policy makers to receive policy messages arising from research undertaken by the scientists; giving an opportunity for the scientists to receive insights on policy areas requiring further research; and facilitate a link between the analysts and policy makers for future engagement in three main areas: Food security, natural resource management and livestock and Fisheries disease and pest management.

The forum took place at a time when Kenya is in the process of revising its national agricultural investment plan to more adequately align it with



Participating scientists in the forum that was held at Sarova Panafric Hotel in Nairobi on September 25th, 2018.

the CAADP Malabo Declaration on accelerating agricultural growth and transformation. Evidence-based development, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of the plan will require that both state and non-state actors have the requisite capacity to inform and guide these processes. This forum therefore provided an opportunity for the researchers to potentially contribute to this process.

During the opening session, the guest of honour indicated that the Ministry is pleased with and supportive of the idea of engagement with research community in providing evidence to support policy formulation. The presentations were organized into two parallel sessions.

Food security

Evidence on food security was synthesized and presented through the following policy briefs: (i) In the “big four”, food security looms tall—but not without irrigated wheat (ii) Urban agriculture: the neglected gem for food security in Kenya (iii) The true cost of eating unsafe traditional vegetables and (iv) Low cost investments that sustain camel milk quality, guarantee safety and increases income among pastoralists in Kenya.

Natural resource management

Evidence on natural resource management was synthesized and presented through the following policy briefs: (i) Prickly pear cactus invasion: a major threat to food security and biodiversity in the drylands

of Kenya (ii) A new dawn in pastoralism: Producing fodder for enhanced resilience and economic growth (iii) Replenish millions of Kenyan household’s granaries; restore forest resources (iv) Tracking the spread of tick diseases of livestock: a strategy for enhancing diseases control and (v) Tilapia lake virus: A wake up call for Kenyan tilapia production.

The young scientists had opportunity to present their findings in the parallel sessions and receive comments from the participants on areas of improvements. They received insights on areas requiring further research and had an opportunity to establish links with key policy makers. Going forward, the participants agreed to establish productive collaboration networks that will help scale up the researchers’ recommendations to influence policy making in the country.

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