



## Ethiopia 7<sup>th</sup> National Chicken Genetic Gains Innovation Platform (Ethiopian 1<sup>st</sup> National Poultry Forum) Convening



Dates: April 15-16, 2019

Venue: Beshale Hotel, Addis Ababa

### Key highlights

- The meeting was as a result of a consultative process which led to integration of national innovation platforms (IP) into Ethiopian Poultry Producers and Processors Association (EPPPA) in order to ensure sustainability beyond the ACGG program. The convening was christened as the Ethiopian 1<sup>st</sup> National Poultry Forum meeting
- The Forum is an independent, ongoing institution that continues to support chicken VC development and acts as a safe space for stakeholder interaction and concerted action beyond ACGG program
- Key challenge areas identified were value added tax (VAT) on poultry products like eggs, DOC (and limited supply of DOC), pullets; acquisition of foreign currency to import ingredients; diseases; weak investment environment; access to credit facilities; access to feeds in terms of quality and

quantity; limited adaptive research initiatives; limited space for private sector to operate.

### Participation

- The meeting was attended by 55 participants mainly drawn from the private sector with a good mix of the youth. There were 36 (65%) men and 19 (35%) women.
- Specific attention to gender has always been an important commitment of the project and this is reflected in all dimensions of the stakeholder engagement, including actions to mobilize and engage women and youth.

### Workshop process design and facilitation



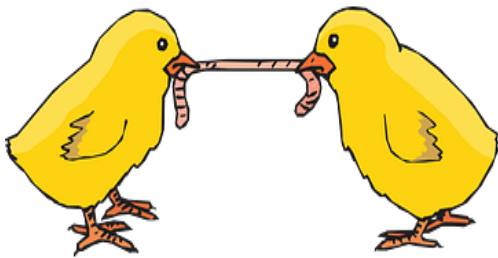
*A session in progress where quality engagement among actors was key in addressing key challenges*

- Working closely with the Forum facilitators, ECI-Africa helped to design the meeting process.
- The main focus was to mentor Forum facilitators to be able to design and run functional and effective Forum processes - helping them in designing Forum meetings, mentoring them (through shadowing during actual processes); and supporting them to

develop mechanisms for on-going analysis/ review and identification of critical Forum focal areas and processes.

### Objectives of the Poultry Forum

- a) Provide a platform for smallholder chicken producers to identify constraints and opportunities along the value chain and help to disseminate innovative technologies in order to increase productivity and overall VC performance;
- b) Advocate for, and contribute in the development of strategies, policies and laws affecting the poultry industry;
- c) Monitor demand and supply of required quality and quantity of standardized poultry products in the sub-sector, and explore new market opportunities;
- d) Undertake resource mobilization, establish partnerships and collaborations, and strengthen the Forum to be a self-sustaining entity;
- e) Participate in topical debates /dialogues, awareness creation and help shape the emerging national agenda on a wide range of poultry VC issues.



*To achieve the above objectives, it was agreed that there will be no need to fight. Instead, an opportunity to facilitate open sharing, encourage objective critique and disagreement, cross-learning and consensus-building during Forum convenings hold promise.*

### Are there opportunities for the Poultry industry in Ethiopia?

- The demand for poultry and poultry products is huge

- Increase in purchasing power due to fast population growth, urbanization and income changes
- Ethiopia is strategically located to potential huge export markets - Somaliland, South Sudan, Arabian Gulf
- Availability of relatively cheap energy source (electric) that could be utilized for large scale poultry production
- Availability of technical expertise and infrastructure that require moderate improvement
- Poultry farming is environment friendly – not destructive as compared to other livestock species.

### What next after the meeting?



*Round table engagement with top private sector leaders was (and will be) key*

- a) Convene high-level meetings aimed at engaging with government, policy makers, key industry leaders and opinion leaders at various levels to reflect on modalities for ongoing role of the Forum as an important poultry industry player
- b) Establish regional Forum entities and support them to recognize the power of working together to address common issues, and demonstrate this through self-organization and commitment to making spontaneous individual and collective efforts to getting resolutions to small-scale chicken farming issues/challenges.