



Left: 4-day old lamb in Mehal Meda, Ethiopia. Right: proud lamb owner with his hand-reared lamb, Mehal Meda, Ethiopia. Photos E. Genfors/ILRI

Context

- Lamb survival is crucial for good productivity in sheep production.
- According to previous studies, lamb mortality rates in small-holder sheep flocks have repeatedly been reported to be high in Ethiopia (20-50%).
- **All** sheep flock routines - from handling the non-pregnant ewe, throughout her pregnancy and delivery, and the first months of the lamb's life - can affect the lamb survival rates.

Approach

- Via interviews and clinical examinations, data is collected to evaluate such routines and find possible limitations.
- Targeting limitations could prevent lamb mortality with easy, affordable measures in a sustainable manner
- Implementation of interventions is possible via e.g. community conversations in Livestock CRP sites.



POVERTY REDUCTION, LIVELIHOODS & JOBS

SILENCE OF THE LAMBS - An ongoing PhD-study on lamb mortality in the Ethiopian highlands

- Short term goal is to investigate sheep flock routines to pin-point down reasons for high lamb mortality rates
- Long term goal is to improve sheep flock health which in turns leads to increased lamb survival rates and improved animal welfare
- Aiming for implementations to be preventive, sustainable and affordable



RESEARCH
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Project Status

- Project's first data collection is ending in June 2020. Data management and statistical calculations are ongoing.

Desired outcome

- An intervention plan with suitable preventive flock routines to improve the sheep productivity and welfare.

Future steps

- Expand to be applicable for different herd health issues, in different areas and in different species.



6-day old lamb with ewe, Molale, Ethiopia. Picture by author.

Partners

Farm and Animal Health, Sweden.



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