

Context

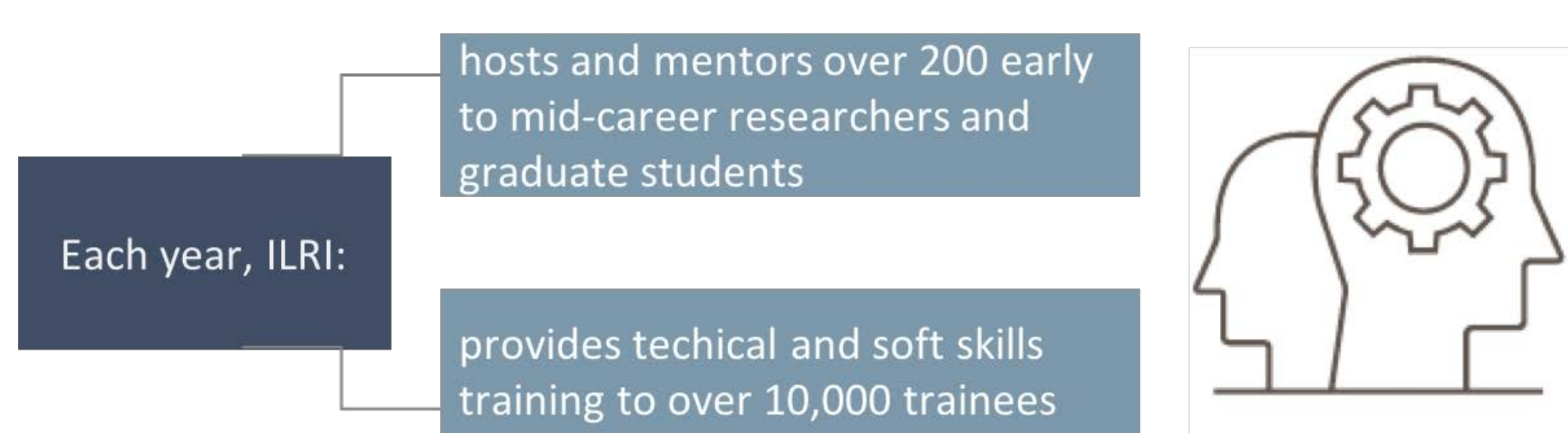
Adopting a truly One Health research for development approach is challenging and requires changes at many levels, including shifts in mindsets and internal organisation dynamics. The challenges are especially real for researchers who tend to work in silos, gathering in-depth data on a specific topic but lacking perspective on the interconnectedness of their subject area in the broader societal context. This is a major capacity issue among most young professionals today.

CapDev at ILRI

The mission of the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) is to transform lives through livestock and capacity development (CapDev) is imbedded in, and cuts across ILRI's research for development mandate.

ILRI applies a context-specific blended approach through:

- graduate and research fellowships;
- professional and academic internships; and
- high impact short training courses.



CapDev Grand Challenge

Through the CapDev Grand Challenge, ILRI aims to improve interconnectivity and collaboration among young researchers from diverse disciplines and countries, strengthening their skills and capabilities to **engage, collaborate** and **communicate** their research findings to different audiences, and thereby deliberately strengthening multidisciplinary and cross disciplinary capabilities.

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Science-policy interface: operationalizing One Health

Addressing challenges of working across disciplines and communicating science: the ILRI CapDev Grand Challenge process

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During the inaugural 2019 CapDev Grand Challenge, 25 graduate and research fellows from Africa, Asia and Europe who were conducting bioscience and integrated science research each made a 3-minute research pitch to a panel of judges comprising a donor, communications expert/journalist, policy development expert and a researcher from one of ILRI's programs. This was a contest to judge how well the fellows could package and communicate their scientific research to important non-scientific audiences.



According to the judges, successful pitches displayed ability to engage with all four panel members and highlight the relevance and potential impact of the fellow's research in a concise and understandable way. Subsequently, participants with the most successful pitches participated in a project impact pathways training that brought them together as a multi- and cross-disciplinary group to co-create research concepts they could collaborate in across different countries.

Participants went through a three-day hands-on project impact pathways and grant proposal writing training in a truly One Health context. The training process involved five research teams, each with mixed disciplinary areas, but focussing on **livestock, humans, zoonoses** and **environment**.

Thereafter over a period of six months, participants were trained through short online courses, on **systems research context, proactive stakeholder engagement, effective team building, partnership development and management, collaborative proposal development, and personal development**.

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Outcome

Through the CapDev Grand Challenge process, ILRI aims at creating cohorts of next-generation researchers who share a common learning experience, are motivated systems thinkers, good communicators and confident engagers of the public. Via social media platforms, the cohorts will remain connected and enabled to work collaboratively across disciplines and countries.



Additionally, building the skills of these researchers to engage with government officials, donors and others and to communicate research findings in an understandable manner will strengthen evidence-based decision-making, which will accelerate ILRI's research to scale for societal impact.

Acknowledgement

All the 25 CapDev Grand Challenge finalists (2019) contributed to the creation of this poster.

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