FEED THE FUTURE INNOVATION LAB FOR LIVESTOCK SYSTEMS; PESTE DES PETITS RUMINANTS (PPR) VACCINE

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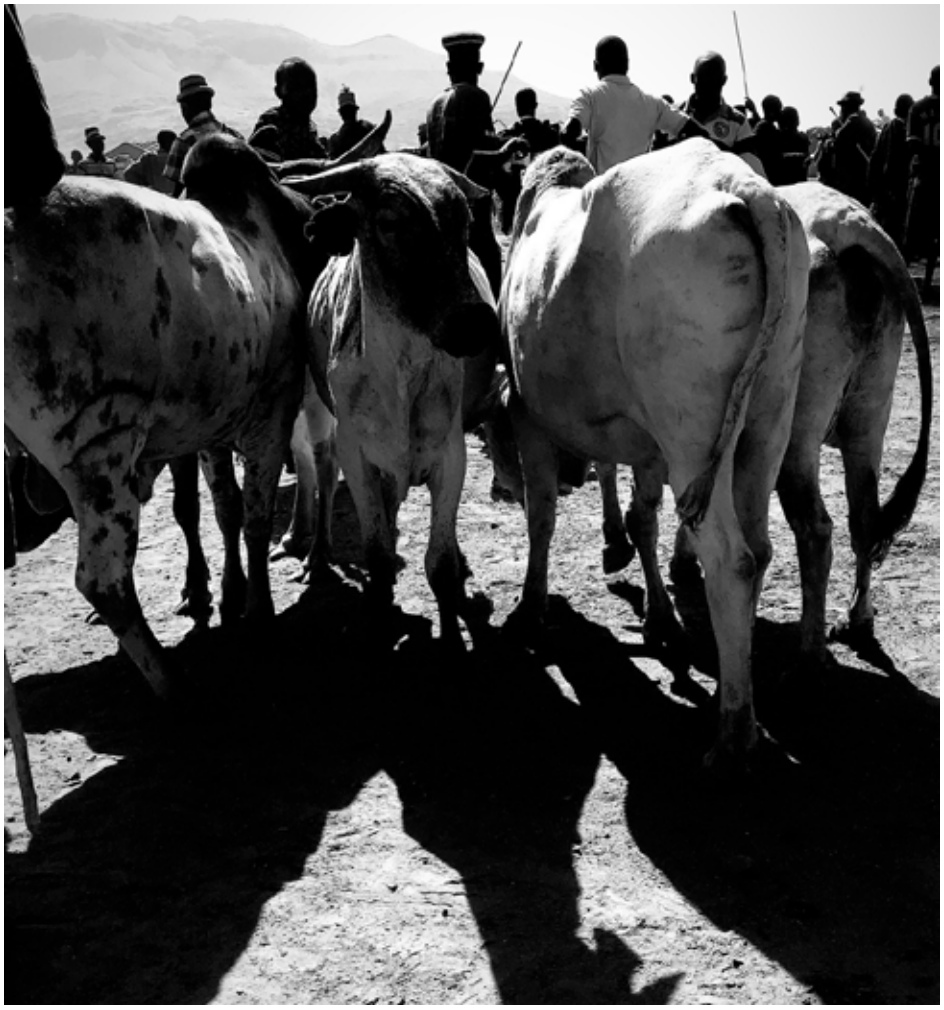
USAID awarded the UF Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) funds to establish the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems. This five-year initiative (October 2015 to September 2020) supports USAID's agricultural research and capacity building work under Feed the Future, the U.S. Government's global hunger and food security initiative. The International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) is the UF/IFAS partner in implementation of the Livestock Systems Innovation Lab ("the Lab"). As part of this larger initiative, USAID funded the University of Florida to lead the Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) Vaccine Associate Award (2017-2020) in Kenya and Uganda. The main implementing partner for this particular project is Tufts University.

The purpose of this project is to assess innovative approaches to PPR control using thermostable PPR vaccine and build capacity to scale the vaccine across a broad region where the disease is endemic. The project is using a combination of tools and approaches that proved successful in the Rinderpest eradication, including a thermostable vaccine (produced in-country when possible), community animal health worker (CAHW) based vaccination systems, participatory epidemiology (PE), and qualitative data collection efforts. The project is using social science data collection and analysis methods for household level data pertaining to livestock.

The sociocultural science team is comprised of UF faculty Sarah McKune and PhD student Emi Moore. The goal of the sociocultural team in the PPR—Vaccine Associate Award is to utilize mixed methods to identify the best uptake pathway for the thermostable vaccine being utilized in the vaccination campaign against PPR, as well as to develop and analyze a household survey to further understand context (livestock disease burden, vaccination practices) and confounders (women's empowerment) to vaccine uptake in the project area.



In order to achieve this goal, formative research was conducted to generate the best possible understanding of gender nuances, as well as overall societal and cultural views about livestock, gender, decision making, and vaccination practices.

The sociocultural team made two research trips to Uganda in 2018. The first trip was in January and February, Moore carried out qualitative formative data collection using semi-structured interviews (SSIs) to gather intelligence for targeting vaccination uptake pathways, household surveys to monitor confounders to vaccination uptake, and modeling to target areas with the highest disease transmission. This research was instrumental in the finalization of the household questionnaire instrument. In May, McKune and Moore both traveled to Uganda to conduct data collection training and field test the household questionnaire. Subsequently, the household questionnaire was conducted for 6 weeks in the summer, and results of the household questionnaire analysis are expected to be finished in early January 2019.

Sarah McKune is assistant professor in the Center for African Studies and the Department of Environmental & Global Health. Saskia Hendrickx is deputy director of the UF Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems. Emily Moore is a One Health doctoral student in Department of Environmental & Global Health.