

Credit: Apollo Habtamu/ILRI

The challenge

- Shortage of good quality feed remains the major challenge for livestock production in sub-Saharan Africa
- Climate change related shocks and declining resource bases have aggravated the challenge
- Systematic approaches and technologies are needed to address the bottleneck

Our innovative approach

- Understanding local contexts, prioritizing forage technologies that fit the context, and ensuring that farmers are key actors in the validation and subsequent uptake of alternative solutions are important



Photo credit: Tigist German/ILRI



INITIATIVE ON
Sustainable Animal
Productivity

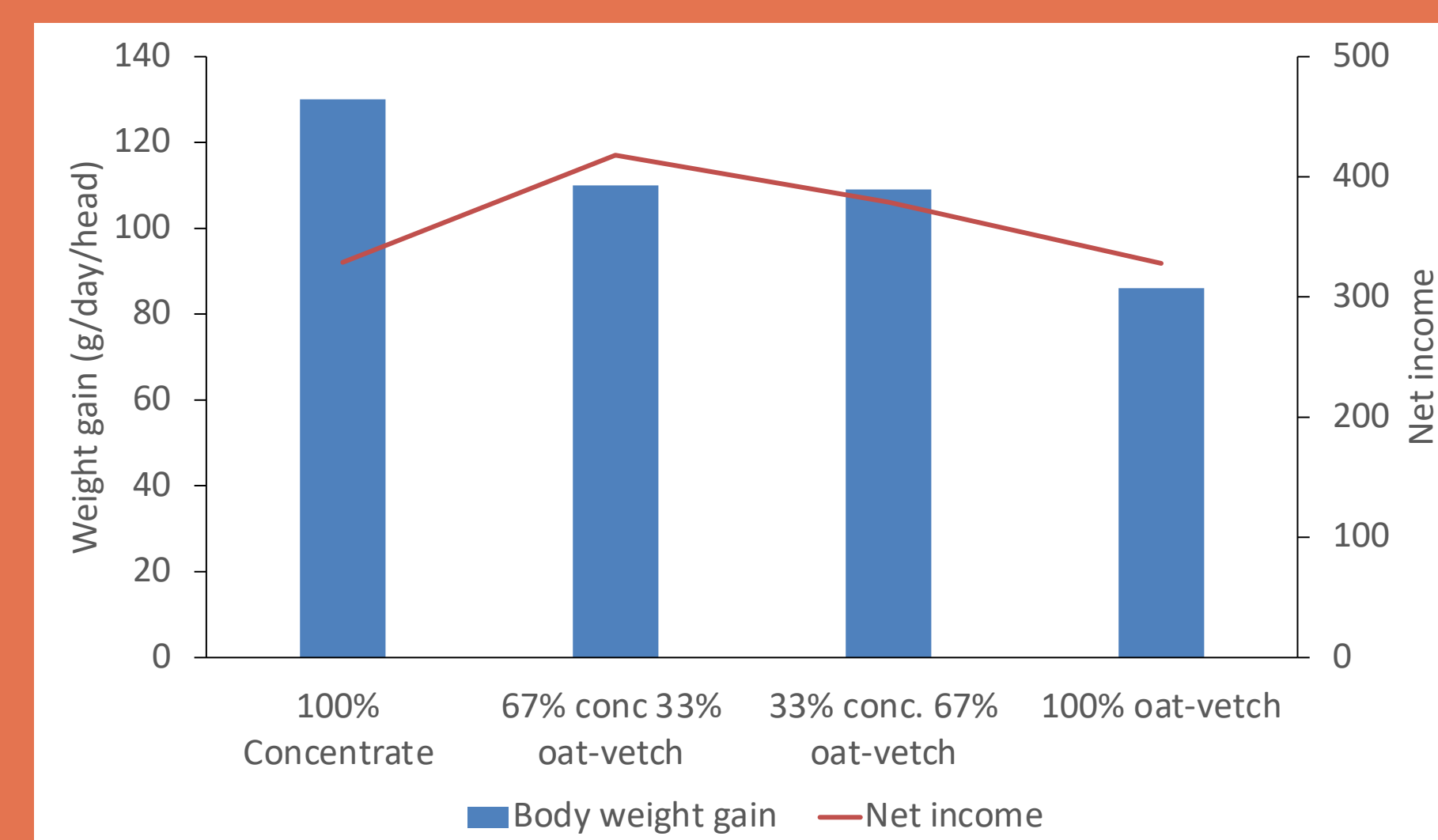


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Integration of cultivated forages in the smallholder system ensures sustainable livestock production and livelihoods

- Multi-dimensional benefits of forage integrations in smallholder systems make them important entry points for sustainable intensification of the system
- Evidence from farm observations indicated that adapted forages produce considerable positive impact on livestock productivity, and environmental sustainability.
- Good quality on-farm grown forages help to replace more expensive and often in-accessible commercial feed supplements under farmer conditions



Use of on-farm grown oat-vetch mix as a supplement for fattening sheep

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Outcomes

- Productivity gains in the range of 50-70% have been obtained as a result of improved forage integrations and better livestock feeding, contributing to improved HH income and nutrition
- In Ethiopia alone, well above one hundred thousand farmers were reached with improved feed and forage technologies during the last ten years.
- Awareness and interest in improved forages (rainfed and irrigated) have increased.

Next steps

- Building strong public private partnerships, piloting business cases and generating evidences
- Building local capacities around market regulations for feeds/forages and forage seeds
- Feed quality analytical capabilities using low cost mobile NIRS
- On-farm diet optimization using decision support tools

Partners



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