

## Context

- **Agricultural Research for Development (AR4D) remains trapped** in a linear and technocratic pathway approach towards development.
- **Adaptation to climate change needs to be embedded** in the practical knowledge and everyday reality of livestock keepers to become effective.
- **Extension and agricultural advisory systems are ill equipped** to support smallholder farmers with challenges emerging from climate change.
- **Linkages between different disciplines** often absent both on academic and practical level.

## Our innovative approach

- Adaptation pioneers are positive deviant farmers who have successfully developed and improved adaptation practices on feed conservation and feed management based on their own farm-grown innovations.
- Bringing in demand-led scientific expertise on feeds and forages supports both pioneers and scientists in progressing relevant practice and science of feed and forage.
- Using such kind of scientific support - and extension infrastructure - adaptation pioneers can achieve sustainable impact at a large scale.



Pioneer of adaptation, Edwin M., Kenya (David Ngome/ILRI)



## Pioneers of adaptation: how feed and forage science can support positive deviant livestock farmers

- **Pioneer farmers called “Adaptation Pioneers”** have been identified by communities and social scientists
- **Practices and technologies on feed conservation and management** developed and implemented by adaptation pioneers understood / backstopped by feed and forage experts
- **Adaptation pioneers** are the main actors in a farmer-led scaling process and receive demand-led training and co-produced extension materials.
- **Citizen science tools** enable adaptation pioneers to collect their own data on-farm and to identify knowledge needs on feed and forage for adaptation to CC to be filled by others.

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## Progress/outcomes

- **Shared understanding of the impact of CC** on the sites in Ethiopia and Kenya.
- **Adaptation pioneers identified** and involved in co-productive research process based on Citizen Science/ Participatory Action Research.
- **Farmer-led data collection** in Kenya from Sept. 2023 to June 2024, Ethiopia from Feb/March 2024 with technical backstopping by Social Science team (SLS), Feed and Forage Team at ILRI (feed analysis, technical advice) as well as local experts (other pioneer farmers, extension officers....).
- **Farmer-led learning and extension in 2023/2024:**
  - Partnership of pioneer farmers with researchers, extension, other farmers and partners.
  - Feed and Forage Team supports in producing practical summaries and training.
  - Participatory Field Days by Pioneer Farmers



Pioneer of adaptation, Cornelius K., Kenya (David Ngome/ILRI)



Pioneers of adaptation, Kidane and Wilita, Ethiopia (Apollo Habtamu/ILRI)

