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 farmerled 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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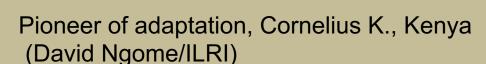
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Progress/outcomes

- Shared understanding of the impact of CC on the sites in Ethiopia and Kenya.
- Adaptation pioneers identified and involved in coproductive 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







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





