

Integrated Technologies and Delivery Hub

A model to link research and delivery pathways in Nepal's smallholder dairy context

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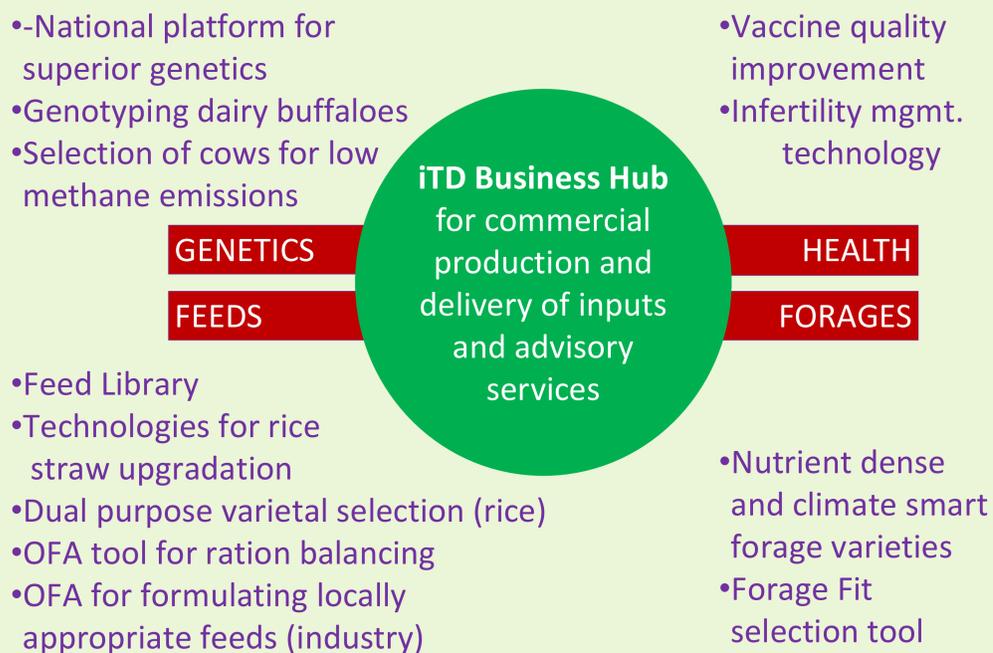
Problem statement

- Dairy productivity in Nepal's smallholder system is far below its potential, largely due to farmers' low uptake of improved technologies, caused by limited access to knowledge, inputs and services
- Extension and service delivery mechanisms are fragmented and not sufficiently business oriented
- Within the context of decreasing public engagement in livestock extension, this situation is only getting more difficult

The solution/innovation

The integrated Technologies and Delivery Hub (iTDH) model positions qualified local resource persons with enhanced training in dairy management, known as Village Livestock Promoters, in dairy cooperatives or other farmer-based organisations to develop a comprehensive livestock services business, delivering preventive animal health, feed and forage inputs, breeding support, dairy management advice and linkages to input suppliers in combination with strengthened skills in business development.

iTDH linking research and delivery



Key results/impacts

- Farmers reported a significant improvement in milk yield, increasing by 1-2 litres per buffalo
- Infertility rates dropped by 90%, indicating major reproductive improvements
- Village Livestock Promoters (VLPs) earned an average of around \$450 per month
- Farmers valued the iTDH approach for its affordability, input access, and extension support



Woman VLP in Sunsari demonstrates silage making. Photo credit: Yanamani Nepal

Scalability and regional relevance

The iTDH model shall be positioned as a self-sustaining service delivery mechanism in the smallholder context. This can be achieved where local governments invest in the extended training of qualified local resource persons, particularly women, and providing them with a start-up capital. These Village Livestock Promoters (VLPs) are quickly able to establish integrated Technologies and Delivery Hubs (iTDH) as micro-enterprises, anchored in farmer-facing organisations, such as co-operatives or as independent centres.

Partners and donors involved

- Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development
- Department of Livestock Services
- National Livestock Breeding Organisation
- Nepal Agriculture Research Council
- Agriculture and Forestry University
- Provincial governments
- Local municipalities
- Dairy and agricultural cooperatives

