



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**Livestock Market Development Activity**  
**Grant Equipment Handover**  
**USAID Ethiopia Mission Director Leslie Reed**  
**June 20, 2017**  
***(as prepared for delivery)***

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Good morning and *indemin aderachu*.

On behalf of USAID's mission in Ethiopia and the Government of the United States of America, I am very happy to be able to participate in this equipment handover event.

As most of you know, livestock and the growing dairy industry are critical for economic growth and poverty reduction as well as improving nutrition. Despite the challenges that exist in Ethiopia, I would like to recognize the Government of Ethiopia, the donor partners and the private sector for the impressive gains in livestock and dairy. We are honored to have contributed to this progress through our Livestock Market Development Activity. This USAID-funded activity has fostered growth and reduced poverty in its target areas by improving the productivity and competitiveness of the livestock and dairy value chains.

One of the components of this activity is a grant program that provides funding to help private sector businesses overcome financial barriers to start-up or expansion. The grant recipients are entrepreneurs who are addressing value chain constraints, overcoming a lack of business services, or proposing new products for the market. Grantees were required to have a plan that demonstrated the viability of their business and the impact of the investments on the value chain. In essence, these funds (in the form of purchased equipment) will stimulate innovation and expansion in these value chains by reducing financial risks for these entrepreneurs.

We have made a significant investment in the livestock and dairy value chains through these grants. Over the life of the activity, we have invested almost two million dollars in 42 entrepreneurs in these value chains. Some of our previous grant investments were used to develop small and medium enterprises and cooperatives involved in artificial insemination and milk collection services, both of which are critical to improving the productivity and the quality of livestock and dairy.

Like the previous grantees, the 24 entrepreneurs here today will use their equipment grants to expand their businesses. Entrepreneurs like Evergeen from Bahir Dar and Almi from Awassa will process an additional 3,000 to 10,000 liters of milk from smallholder farmers on a daily basis. The Tigray Milk Marketing Federation will increase their milk collection from 300 to 2,300 liters per day and Azu Daiy in Bishoftu will be able to collect an additional 2,000 liters of milk per day from surrounding farmers. Finally, the mobile abattoir of Dot-not will allow the company to access new markets for meat products.

I would also like to note our commitment to continuing support of the livestock and dairy sectors. While the current Livestock Market Development activity is ending this year, we will build on the success of this activity and continue to provide support to these important sectors through a new five-year value chain activity that includes the livestock and dairy value chains.

I would like to congratulate the grantees on your entrepreneurial spirit that is driving progress in these sectors. I urge the Ministry of livestock and Fisheries and all private-sector stakeholders, including today's grantees, to work together to make the livestock industry safer and more profitable so it can improve the lives of even more people while sustainably strengthening the Ethiopian economy. We look forward to continuing our collaboration and support to public- and private-sector efforts in Ethiopia's livestock and dairy sectors.

Together, we are making a great difference!

Thank you.