# Advancing women's participation in livestock vaccine value chains

**LIVESTOCK VACCINE INNOVATION FUND** (LVIF)

## The challenge

Newcastle disease and *peste des petits ruminants* (PPR) are common, highly contagious and often fatal livestock diseases that can be controlled by vaccinations. But in Nepal, Senegal and Uganda, inequities resulting from caste, ethnicity, gender and other factors prevent smallholder farmers, especially women, from benefitting from animal vaccines.

Small livestock are vital to women and their communities for food security and income. To ensure vaccination programs succeed and animals stay healthier, much needs to be learned about who in society knows about and has access to animal vaccines, the barriers women face in participating in vaccine value chains and how vaccination can become more widespread.

## Innovations

- Using a gendered intersectional transformative approach (GITA), researchers at the University of Florida working to better understand the barriers to women's participation in the vaccine value chain.
- To make vaccines more accessible, veterinarians are being trained to integrate improved interpersonal skills into their work.
- Communities are receiving sensitization training, which is showing them the importance of women's advanced capabilities as livestock keepers.

## Results

### Applying the GITA approach

Researchers used GITA to examine how gender and social identity roles such as caste, ethnicity, geographic location, age and disability influence the ways in which livestock keepers participate in the livestock vaccine value chain.

As examples, in Senegal, women are discouraged from driving motorbikes, making it harder to access vaccines and veterinary care. In Uganda, the socio-cultural norms of the Pokot people prevent women from approaching livestock because of a cultural belief that menstruation is a bad omen.

The project team has developed locally tailored education and communication materials, such as posters and flip books about vaccination and *PPR* — many showing women defying restrictive gender norms, such as working as veterinarians and riding motorcycles.

### Integrating interpersonal skills in animal heath training

Researchers used a train-the-trainer approach to help veterinarians and community animal health workers engage with communities. Veterinarians learned skills such as gender awareness, better communications, conflict management and empathic listening. For example, goats marked for sacrifice in some communities cannot be vaccinated for religious reasons. Honouring such customs is a key to working effectively with communities.

Researchers trained 44 vets (9 women) and 178 community-based animal health service providers, or AHSPs, (66 women) on gender, vaccines and animal production.

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### Using community-sensitization training

Researchers also worked with communities to dispel stereotypes such as: women do not have the physical strength to restrain an animal for vaccination. In that case, researchers conveyed that technique, not physical strength, is needed to restrain animals.

The project team has developed illustration-based materials such as flipbooks and posters to help dispel stereotypes of livestock keepers, especially women and marginalized people. More than 3,600 livestock keepers (2,420 women) participated in community sensitization activities around gender norms, animal production and health, and vaccination.

## At a Glance

**44 vets** (9 women), **178 community-based AHSPs** (66 women) **trained on gender**, vaccines and animal production

**3,621 livestock keepers** (2,420 women) participated in community-sensitization activities

**80 percent of livestock keepers** increased their demand for veterinary services.

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