



NaLIRRI Roundup

NATIONAL LIVESTOCK RESOURCES RESEARCH INSTITUTE
7TH - 12TH SEPTEMBER 2025 | ISSUE 1



PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL ECONOMY VISITS NaLIRRI

On Thursday 11th Sept 2025, the Parliamentary Committee on the National Economy paid a guided visit to investments in livestock research at NaLIRRI. While addressing them, the Director highlighted key strides including the anti-tick vaccine now in extended field trials, the locally developed Aflasafe biocontrol product, expanded goat breeding and stingless bee research, and plans to establish a feed laboratory. Committee members called for stronger grassroots presence, particularly in regions like Busoga, and the north and urged NaLIRRI to show visible impact from the many projects and loans it has received. The Director acknowledged that while Uganda is producing remarkable innovations, technology adoption remains slow and must be addressed nationally. The Committee pledged its continued support and encouraged the institute to fully utilise the newly approved International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) grant to expand its footprint.

BOOSTING ANTI-TICK VACCINE PRODUCTION CAPACITY IN GMP

"These trainings are critical to ensuring that production systems and equipment meet the stringent standards for vaccine manufacturing."



NaLIRRI hosted consultants from Ethiopia's Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre (PANVAC) for intensive training sessions under the Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) framework for vaccine production. Out of the four mandatory equipment qualification trainings required before operationalising the vaccine production facility; design, installation, operational, and performance qualification; two were successfully completed this week: installation qualification and operational qualification.

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In addition, the consultants worked with NaLIRRI to refine the facility's organisational structure, including job positions and job descriptions, building on recommendations from a recent Ugandan benchmarking visit to Ethiopia's national vaccine institute.

CHARTING A WAY FORWARD: Q1 REVIEW AND Q2 PLANNING MEETING

NaLIRRI opened the week with a highly engaging Quarter 1 Review and Quarter 2 Planning meeting. Teams and Project Principal Investigators came together to reflect on achievements and gaps from the first quarter, while aligning on strategic actions for the 2025/2026 work plan. The meeting was rich with ideas on improving efficiency, strengthening cross-platform collaborations, and accelerating delivery of outputs that directly impact NaLIRRI's delivery.



FIELDS READY FOR PLANTING AS LAND OPENING CLOCKS 75 ACRES

This week, our feed production and field teams opened an additional 25 acres of land, bringing the total opened this season to 75 acres. The land will be planted with soya, maize, and Chloris gayana to support ongoing feed requirements for the on-farm herd and generation of Non-Tax Revenue targets. The team also provided technical backstopping for earlier interventions with key dairy farmers in western Uganda and participated in a Uganda Bureau of Statistics meeting to contribute to the development of the tool for the upcoming 2026/2027 agricultural census.

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ERITREAN DELEGATION INSPIRED BY NaLIRRI'S ZERO- WASTE MODEL

Midweek, a delegation from Eritrea visited NaLIRRI to learn about sustainable organic farming practices. They were received by the Director, who showcased the institute's innovations in zero-waste livestock systems, value addition to cow dung, improved pastures, and the development of the anti-tick vaccine. The visitors expressed admiration for NaLIRRI's order, cleanliness, and commitment to sustainability. “This centre can be a model for organic farming,” their team leader remarked, urging NaLIRRI to continue setting the standard for farmer-focused green innovations.

OUR HERD GROWS: THREE NEW CALVES BORN

The NaLIRRI dairy herd continues to grow steadily. This week, three new calves were born; two pure Jersey cattle and one Friesian-Jersey cross. This brings the total number of calves born since May to 35, marking a steady rise in the herd and demonstrating the success of our ongoing breeding programme.





NaLIRRI SHOWCASES FEEDING TECHNOLOGIES AT THE GREATER-LUWERO FARMER OUTREACH

This week, NaLIRRI participated in the Greater-Luwero Farmer Outreach Programme organised under the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF). The outreach is part of the Greater-Luwero Affirmative Action Programme launched in October 2024 to transform communities in Luwero, Nakasongola and Nakaseke – districts that were at the heart of the NRA liberation struggle.

NaLIRRI showcased a range of innovative feeding technologies, including improved pastures and pasture seeds, alongside alternative feeds such as the nutrient-rich Black soldier fly for poultry farmers. The event provided an opportunity to address farmer challenges, offer on-spot extension support, and link smallholder farmers to new technologies that can improve productivity and resilience.



LABORATORY ACHIEVEMENTS STRENGTHEN FMD CONTROL EFFORTS

NaLIRRI's DTRA Lab achieved a key milestone this week by validating the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for sample analysis using the Non-Structural Protein 3ABC ELISA kit. This validation confirms that the procedure reliably produces consistent, accurate results – providing high assurance in the quality of our research data. After confirming the method, the team tested 225 blood samples from different livestock to check for signs of FMD infection. 106 of these samples showed antibodies for the virus, meaning the animals had been exposed to FMD. This shows a 23% infection rate among the animals tested so far.

This progress will help us track and control FMD more effectively across Uganda, protecting livestock and supporting farmers.

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UGANDA'S FMD VACCINE SUPPLY STRENGTHENED THROUGH COLLABORATIVE ANTIGEN PRODUCTION

Our Scientists working alongside their Egyptian counterparts under the Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) Research Team this week successfully produced 90 litres of inactivated SAT-1 antigen. The antigen was shipped to Egypt for final reconstitution under current Good Manufacturing Practice (cGMP) conditions to make more quadrivalent FMD vaccine. This effort is part of the ongoing collaboration to deliver 15 million doses of FMD vaccine to Uganda in the 2025/2026 financial year.