**ILIRI**

**Nairobi.Knowledge.Week**

**1st African Knowledge for Development Partnership Conference: Knowledge agenda for Africa**

* It is my honour to receive this award on behalf of the entire ILRI communications and knowledge management team (present and past), and ILRI’s management
* My organization, ILRI, The International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) is one of 15 CGIAR research centres and is the only centre dedicated entirely to animal agriculture research for the developing world. We undertake livestock research to contribute to sustainable development.
* I note that we are the first international research for development agency to win this award.
* I think this highlights the importance we place on communications and knowledge management as an integral part of the research for development process in order to ensure that our research outputs lead to outcomes and to impact. And to ensure that the importance of agriculture, and livestock within this is profiled regarding its multiple, essential development roles. That resonates well with the aims of the Knowledge for Development Partnership, linking a knowledge agenda with the SDGs.
* As an international organization committed to creating public goods taking a knowledge management approach is essential to the way we organise, share and use the knowledge generated by us and our partners

For ILRI, I would like to highlight several principles, which will also be mentioned by Michael Victor and Peter Ballantyne who will be presenting tomorrow.
* First is our approach to working in the open. Essential for an R4D research organization. We do this in two ways.
	+ By ensuring that all the ‘knowledge products’ that ILRI produces are open, appropriately tagged with standard meta-data and available on multiple platforms. A great example of this is the open repository called CG-space. Originally developed for ILRI, almost all the CGIAR centres now use it as their main repository thereby creating a massive open resource. More than 80,000 resources currently stored there with almost 70% openly accessible.
	+ Second by providing ‘personalisation’. By we take a more contextual and intentional approach with researchers to ensure they have the tools to communicate in the way they want to. This has helped researchers in engage in new conversations through blogging, interactive forums and social media. It also moved us beyond tools and products to focus on how researchers share information and knowledge more openly through better facilitated meetings and events.
* Another important principle is partnerships — over the years, ILRI’s communication and knowledge management team has formed partnerships with key knowledge organisations (KM4DEV local network, UNICEF, FAO, GIZ, other CG centres and programs, IFAD, etc).
* Finally, everyone at ILRI, from senior management to researchers takes knowledge management and communication to heart – its everyone’s business and a shared responsibility. Not the ‘job’ of the communications and knowledge management team! But we do need this outstanding team of professionals, they are the ones who lead in setting standards, piloting new initiatives and pushing the boundaries, making sure we are visible in the right place at the right time.
* Let me close by acknowledging and thanking the entire communication and knowledge management team at ILRI for their outstanding work, Peter, Abenet, Tsehay and David, Paul, Ben along with Michael who has just joined us are participating today …Susan and Ewen…