The Jersey's place in Ethiopia
Now and in the Future

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History of Crossbreeding in Ethiopian NRS

- Started in early 1970th using **Friesian**, **Jersey** and **Simmental** with Boran, Horro and Bagait breeds
- CB with Simmental discontinued due to high calves mortality on their crosses but continued with Friesian and Jersey semen at national level
- The overall performances of **50%** crossbred dairy cows (both HF and Jersey) in Ethiopia on average were about:
  - **24 kg** birth weight,
  - **36 months** age at first calving,
  - **2,150 litters** milk yield in 359 days of lactation and
  - **474 days** calving interval

- Jersey and Jersey crossbreds are characterized by:
  - Small body size,
  - Hardy and adaptable,
  - Low maintenance requirement,
  - High feed conversion efficiency, and
  - Good reproductive performance
- The **high fat yield** potential
  - Smallholder farmers who have less access to fluid milk market to process and milk derivatives such as butter

Feed Conversion Efficiency

- Jersey cows consume more DM as a percentage of body weight than HF

- There is no significant difference in the volume of milk produced per kg of DM between HF and Jersey

- Jersey cows produce more fat corrected milk (FCM) and solid corrected milk (SCM) per kg of DMI consumed

- Estimates of feed conversion efficiency (FCE) measured as grams of milk solids (milk fat plus milk protein) per kilogram of DMI is higher in Jersey than Friesian cows (112 vs 97 g MS/kg DMI)

Performance of Jersey, Jersey and HF crosses

Parameter	Jersey	Jersey Cross (F1)	HF Cross (F1)
Herd life (days)	1,813.76	**3,107.53**	2,876.99
Life Time Milk Yield (Kg)	7,216.34	**13,546.50**	12,816.68
Lactation Milk Yield (Kg)	2,154.99	2,150.39	2,149.67
Lactation Length (days)	336	**371**	359
Age at First Calving (Months)	30	35	29
Calving Interval (days)	497	**408**	417
SPC (Number)	2.00	**1.31**	1.49
Fat (%)	5.08	**5.10**	4.77
TS (%)	14.42		13.19

Jersey Cattle Population and Semen Production

- Improved cattle accounts for about **1.7%** of the national cattle population
- Friesian and Jersey semen are commonly used for national crossbreeding
- Sources of semen are:
  - NAIC and RAICs (Nekemte, Awasa, Bahir Dar and Mekele)
  - ALPPIS From private sector
- Number of pure Jersey, Friesian or their crosses in Ethiopia is not known
- Jersey semen at national level
  - **31%** for production and **28%** for distribution (NAIC)
  - and **9%** of imported semen by ALPPIS
- Ada Berga (**240**), Wolayita Sodo Farms (**89**) and Project Mercy (**78**) are serving as source of pure Jersey are being used as bull dam
- Project Mercy is currently distributing pregnant Jersey heifers to Farmers at – it is the only active Jersey multiplication center in the country

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YKZ7   It is appropriate to mention Project Mercy (Chacha) here - get in touch with Seare for details
Yilma Kidane, Zelalem, 04/06/2019

Major Challenges hindering expansion of Jersey

- Lack of well-organized and consistent breeding program (with defined breeding goals) designed and implemented at specific agro-ecology or production system

- Lack of breed suitability and preference mapping

- Low level of community involvement on genetic improvement

- Poor AI delivery system

- Inefficient extension system (Limited advisory and technical support on genetic improvement)

- Incompetent marketing (Milk price is determined by volume instead of quality)

- Lack of Jersey breed promotion

Conclusion and Way forward

- Jersey breed is not promoted properly and
- Not utilized by majority of smallholder farmers
- Suitable breed - where there is market problem for fluid milk

Therefore:

- Conduct breed suitability and preference mapping
- Develop and implement suitable breeding program for specific area (agro-ecology or production system)
- Enhance awareness of farmers, AI technician and experts on the potential advantage and desirable characteristics of Jersey
- Promote Jersey semen
- Initiate milk pricing based on quality
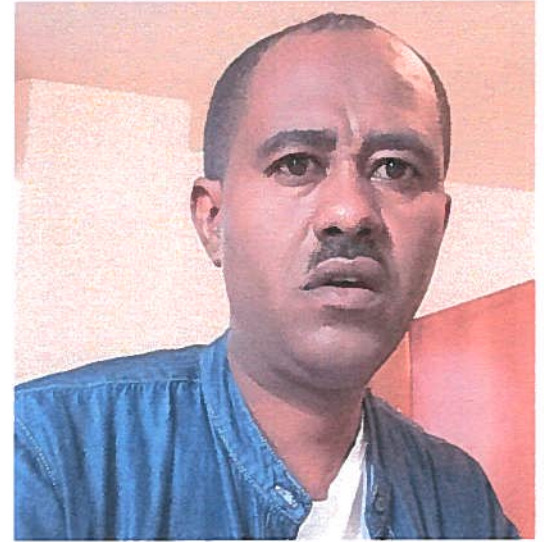
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Thank You!