



EVA has organized Business Skills and Entrepreneurship training to Private Veterinary Service Providers in Oromia Region through the EU Financed HEARD Project



Livestock in Ethiopia are key to ensuring food and nutrition security, rural income, employment and export earnings. The overall objective of the HEARD project is to increase marketing and productivity of livestock and livestock products. The private veterinary service provider is one of the key actors in contributing to the achievement of this goal. The private veterinary service delivery in Ethiopia is at its infant stage and needs to be nurtured, supported and promoted. Access to finance, working space and inadequate business skills were identified as some of the key challenges the private service providers face either to start a new business or expand an existing business. Since the launching of the HEARD Project in 2019, EVA and ILRI have been

implementing the component II of the HEARD project which focuses on improving technical capacity of both public and private Veterinary service providers. Through this initiative the EVA has managed to provide business skills and entrepreneurship training aimed at improving business management skills of service providers. This activity was been implemented in close collaboration with regional HEARD grant components of Oromia, Amhara and Somali Regions Where the regional grants avail loan to young graduates who are willing to start a new business in Veterinary service delivery, the EVA provides training on business skills and entrepreneurship. As part of this initiative the EVA has organized business skills and entrepreneurship training for beneficiaries selected from HEARD woredas in Oromia region. The training was organized from October 20-21, 2022 in Adama town. In this training a total of 65(53M: 12F) trainees participated in the training event. The trainees were selected from Oromia HEARD beneficiary woredas including different woredas found within Borena, East Harerge, North,East,and West Shoa zones, Illubabor, Wollega and Jimma zones.

In addition to the current training, EVA has so far delivered three more trainings in 2019, 2020, and 2021 which makes a total grand sum of 185(149M:36F) participants selected from different beneficiary woredas of Oromia region. The current training is the fourth in Oromia region alone. Similarly a total of 4-trainings benefiting 189 (123M: 66F) participants were trained in Amhara region from 2019-2022. The project has also trained a total of 129(110M: 19F) trainees from 2019 to 2022 in Somali region. To date the project has delivered 11 trainings for a total of **503(382M: 121F)**-trainees selected from the **three regions**.

The current training which was organized for Oromia region private service providers was facilitated by experienced trainers from Business and Economics Faculty of Addis Ababa University. The training was officially opened by Dr Getachew Gutema, head of veterinary service

of the Oromia Bureau of Livestock development. And a key note address was made by Ato Berhanu Taye, Program Manager for Rural Transformation and Resilience for the EU delegation. Ato Berhanu spoke about the successive programs supported by EU in Ethiopia including LVC-PPD, HEARD and other Drought Mitigation projects that help measures to support and improve the development and marketing of the livestock sector in Ethiopia. The Veterinary services Rationalization Road map was one of the outputs of the LVC-PPD project and its piloting is also financed through the HEARD project indicating evolution of HEARD activities from the preceding LVC PPD project. He has added that the private wing of the veterinary service providers were targeted in those programs.

This intervention of providing Business skills and entrepreneurship training has created a strong complementarity between EVA-ILRI and regional grant components for bringing better impact.

