

## RESILIENTAFRICA NETWORK (RAN) - HORN OF AFRICA RESILIENCE INNOVATION LAB (HoA RILab)

### COLLABORATIVE RESILIENCE INNOVATION DESIGN FOR RECURRENT EFFECTS OF DROUGHT (CRID4RED)

For details and to apply, please visit: [www.grants.ranlab.org](http://www.grants.ranlab.org) by April 29<sup>th</sup>2016, 11:59pm GMT+3 (local Ethiopian time).

#### **CRID4RED Grants:**

In Phase 1, grants ranging from **US\$ 50,000 to \$100,000** will be awarded to teams formed around projects from the CRID co-creation process. Winners of Phase 1 qualify to compete for Phase 2 grants ranging from **US\$ 100,000 - \$200,000**.

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ResilientAfrica Network - Horn of Africa Resilience Innovation Lab (**HoA RILab**) is pleased to announce and invite applications for the Collaborative Resilience Innovation Design for Recurrent Effects of Drought (CRID4RED) Grants. The call is sourcing innovative ideas that will contribute to resilience building in areas affected by recurrent effects of drought such as the Borana Zone of Southern Ethiopia. HoA RILab is based at Jimma University, College of Public Health and Medical Sciences, in Jimma, Ethiopia with 5 partner universities within the region - Jimma University, Addis Ababa University, and Bule Hora University, Benadir University (Somalia) and University of Nairobi (Kenya).

#### **The Resilience Gap:**

The Horn of Africa region is characterized by vast arid and semi-arid lands, associated with catastrophic human and animal losses due to prolonged droughts and famines. Recurrent internal displacement also occurs as a result of drought events and famines.

#### **CRID4RED Approach:**

In sourcing for innovations, RAN is applying a Collaborative Resilience Innovation Design (CRID) approach that is a highly collaborative intervention design process in which multi-disciplinary teams of experts, scholars and stakeholders are invited to develop system level interventions in a CRID Workshop. It is based on the thinking that innovative ideas can be co-created collaboratively by experienced stakeholders working with the target communities. The CRID approach is specifically designed to generate “platform-oriented solutions” i.e. solutions that result into a platform that can facilitate multiple development functions instead of a discrete project.

#### **CRID4RED Priority areas:**

The call has three priority intervention pathways for resilience building around recurrent drought and its associated shocks and stresses in areas such as the Borana region in Southern Ethiopia:

**Pathway 1 - Water to drive development:** The livelihood of pastoralists is dependent on the availability of pasture and fodder, both of which are highly dependent on the availability and proper management of water. The few available water sources are physically, chemically and biologically unsafe.

**Pathway 2 - Diversified and market-oriented livestock production:** One of the pervasive cultural values amongst pastoralists is the keeping of large herds of livestock. This is associated with prestige and high social regard, but is also used as a coping strategy to losses that occur during the dry season. Unfortunately, keeping large herds is also associated with low quality livestock, low economic viability of stock, as well as damage to rangelands and the environment. The pastoralists have little or no market-orientation. Pastoralist communities are excluded from active participation in livestock markets and their level of leverage is low.

**Pathway 3- Livelihoods diversification beyond pastoralism:** Communities in the Borana area of Southern Ethiopia primarily practice one form of livelihood - livestock. The form of livestock production practiced rotates around subsistence, with limited income generating options or possible alternatives. Mono livelihood is one of the vulnerability factors that have reduced the Borana pastoralist communities' resilience capacity, especially when adverse events like prolonged drought strike. Younger people who have no herds of their own are largely unemployed and dependent.

#### **CRID4RED Innovation Challenges:**

The Collaborative Resilience Innovation (CRID) workshop analyzed the three priority intervention pathways and developed 3 innovation challenges.

- **Innovation Challenge 1:** Multi-faceted water-centered agro-pastoralism transformation
- **Innovation Challenge 2:** Community-owned value addition
- **Innovation Challenge 3:** Skills for change

*We invite initial original ideas in any of the 3 innovation challenge categories from intending co-creators.*

#### **Innovation Challenge 1: Multi-faceted Water-centered Agro-pastoralism Transformation**

Communities of Borana Zone in Southern Ethiopia rely on livestock for survival. The form of livestock enterprise practiced is subsistence-based pastoralism. This form of production is characterized by poor animal husbandry practice and chronically low productivity. Low productivity is attributed to three major factors: 1) Inadequate access to water in the long dry season and wastage of surface water during the rainy seasons; 2) Poor animal husbandry and rangeland management practices; 3) Low access to affordable animal health services and supplies; 4) Non-existent value addition with high wastage of livestock products; and 5) Low leverage in the livestock market.

**Examples of innovative ideas could include:** Innovation projects that involve innovative ways of sustainable water catchment and using sustainable water catchment and harvesting technologies as rallying points for improvement in other livestock related practices. Innovative approaches to water scarcity related early warning and water use rationalization. Innovative approaches to increasing access to improved livestock breeds and fodder, Innovative approaches to optimization of rangeland and pasture use, improvement of pasture quality and resilience, Re-imagining ways of increasing access to animal health services, affordable livestock implements and supplies, and appropriate technologies to support farming along-side livestock rearing, Re-imagining ways of increasing access to markets through better price leverage and market expansion.

### **Innovation Challenge 2: Community-Owned Value Addition**

Borana pastoralists heavily rely on one source of livelihood. Pastoralism, in which the vast majority of households are engaged, is transmitted from one generation to another through family lines. In many cases, children drop out of school to look after their cattle, some have never been sent to school at all. This mode of production traps households into dependency on a livestock year-in and year-out. The general lack of diversification is partly a cultural issue as most people have lived within this culture for many generations; it is also a lack of exposure, including a lack of alternatives for income generation beyond livestock.

We are looking for innovative ideas to promote community based value addition to non-meat animal products, as a way to reduce wastage of these products, and as an alternative source of income for youth in Borana region.

**Examples of innovative ideas could include:** Innovative but affordable technologies for value addition to non-meat livestock products e.g. milk, hides, cheese, horns, substantially reducing their wastage in the communities, Innovative sources of energy to drive produce value addition processes, Innovative approaches to bulking of small holder livestock products for value addition, hence creating better leverage in the markets, Innovative models for branding and marketing of locally produced cheese, hides and other value added produce, Innovative approaches to saving and creation of financial safety nets that can spur development related investments among pastoralist communities, Innovative business alternatives and models that empower youth to benefit from the sale of value added livestock products.

### **3. Innovation Challenge 3: Skills for Change**

One of the key factors affecting the livelihoods of the people of Borana is the low level of their agency for change to more diversified and profitable livelihoods. This is rooted in their culture, low levels of knowledge and lack of life skills to initiate and support the change needed to transform their life into a modern and viable society. Pastoralists' culture emphasizes large numbers of cattle as a symbol of wealth, instead of quality of herd. Their lifestyle also promotes early school drop outs as well as dependency on livestock. Their cultural predicament, coupled with an untamed environment keeps them in a cycle of dependence on livestock and poor methods of production. In addition, pastoralist communities lack skills to be able to diversify to other sources of income. Youth and women lack entrepreneurial skills and are therefore trapped into one source of livelihood.

**Examples of such innovations could include:** Innovative platforms, technologies or approaches to building pastoralist farmer's skills for better livestock practices, sustainable herds, improved livestock breeds, and better rangeland management. We seek innovative platforms, technologies or approaches to increase skills for entrepreneurship and livelihoods diversification especially for youth in pastoralist communities and creative ways for packaging information for broader, deeper impact in terms of changing attitudes, and normative practices. Technologies and approaches that put communities in more control of information sharing, so that community role models can be better leveraged. Ways of packaging and delivery of high impact knowledge and skills building resources so that they are accessible to rural pastoralists and result in attitude change.

**END**