



# FEED THE FUTURE

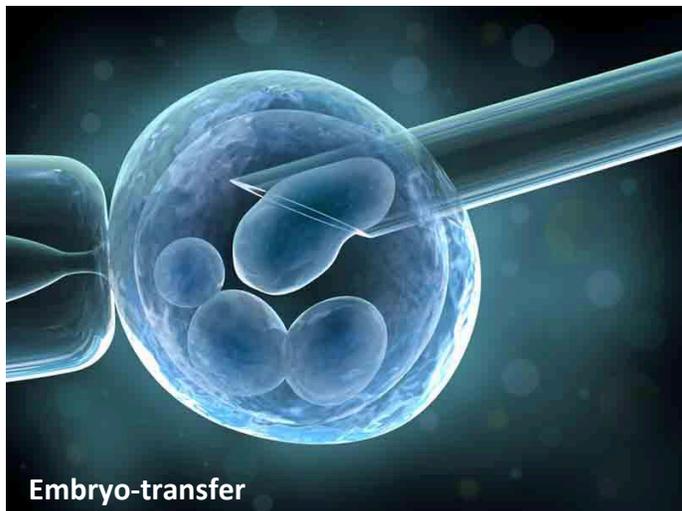
The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

## HIGH-TECH ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION TRAINING

### The Problem

- The production potential of smallholder dairy farmers is under-utilized as many smallholder farmers only have two milking cows on average, each producing only five litres of milk per day, compared to the 60 litres required for a viable enterprise.
- Although artificial insemination (AI) can increase herd and productivity, uptake is low at 20%.
- 30% of trained technicians do not practice due to lack of capital while those practicing are limited by poor record keeping, the high cost of AI kits and high transport costs.

### The Innovative Solution



Under the Innovation Engine program, Indicus will work on establishing a high-tech training facility to train and equip inseminators who will increase access to quality and affordable genetics for smallholder farmers. This will help address the breeding challenges in the AI value chain, particularly quality distribution of AI in the currently underserved North and South Rift regions of Kenya. The innovation emphasizes proper record keeping and genomic tracing.

### About the Award

Following an open and competitive process in 2015, Indicus, Ltd., was among three pilot roll-out innovations nominated for direct seed funding from USAID under the Feed the Future Kenya Innovation Engine program.

**Award duration:** May 2016 – March 2017

**Award Amount:** KES 38.7 million (\$379,431)

**Technical Assistance:** nutrition and breeding report; marketing and distribution planning

**Target Counties:** Uasin Gishu

**Targeted Value Chain:** Dairy and livestock

### About the Innovator

**Timothy Chesire** is an agribusiness entrepreneur and the Founder and Managing Director of Indicus, a Kenya-based livestock genetics company.

A law graduate of the University of Leeds, Timothy previously served as Managing Director at Super Sires Genetics, distributing and marketing Nordic Genetics in East Africa.

Established in 2009, Indicus has carved a niche in the livestock genetics sector; the company boasts the first commercial Bovine In Vitro Fertilization Lab in Eastern and Central Africa propagating high-quality embryos to increase small and medium-scale farmers' access to quality genetics in keeping with the company's motto "perfect genetics, profitable cattle."



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KENYA INNOVATION ENGINE



## Goals under the Award

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- Train and equip 300 artificial inseminators to help increase access to AI services in target areas and improve the caliber of inseminators in the target county. This will also help to lower the cost of AI services by creating competition, thereby increasing demand for the services. This will also help to improve the livelihoods of inseminators.
- Over 24,000 farmers accessing and utilizing the AI services for better breeds, thereby enhancing productivity.

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In 2012, Indicus ran a pilot program to train 30 inseminators and provide them with AI kits, motor bikes and semen, to enable market penetration. Based on its success, Indicus is planning to scale up the number of trained inseminators, forming a base for its future business of distributing imported genetics at affordable prices to smallholder farmers.