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Anno Agro Industry Farm Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Remarks by Acting Mission Director Gary Linden

East Wellega Zone

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It is a pleasure to be in Bako today to officially open this livestock feed manufacturing facility. The new facility will enable more than 350 farmers in three districts of the region to purchase nutritious livestock feed at affordable prices. The feed ingredients come from agricultural by-products that are readily available in the region.

A major challenge that limits competitiveness and productivity in Ethiopia's livestock sector is a lack of capital for new technology.

To address this challenge, USAID, through the Agricultural Growth Program-Livestock Market Development project, awards grants to private sector companies, cooperatives, associations and entrepreneurs for innovative activities that will benefit smallholder farmers and promote competitiveness in the meat, live animal and dairy value chains in Ethiopia.

The feed manufacturing equipment that we see today was acquired by Ethio-Feed through one of these innovation grants. Ethio-Feed is one of 18 companies that received grants and we believe that the other 17 grant recipients, and those in line to receive grants, will use a similar approach and bring substantial achievements to increase productivity.

USAID's 38 million dollar Livestock Market Development project is funded by the U.S. Feed the Future Initiative as part of USAID's contribution to the Government of Ethiopia's Agricultural Growth Program. Focusing on suppliers, processors, cooperatives and exporters, the project enables the private sector to develop selected livestock value chains through innovation.

In line with this aim, USAID recognizes the need for private sector actors, such as Ethio-Feed and Anno Agro-Industry, to actively participate and contribute.

I would like to congratulate Ethio-Feed, Anno Agro-Industry, and the Livestock Market Development project's team for this achievement today. Ethio-Feed will soon open similar facilities with other franchisees in Wonji and Mekele and I expect all of these facilities to have a positive contribution to Ethiopia's livestock sector.

Finally, on behalf of USAID, I would like to affirm our continued collaboration with the Government of Ethiopia and other partners to support the private sector's efforts to strengthen and transform the livestock sector within Ethiopia.

Thank you.