

Belachew Bacha Hirpessa, is the Regulatory Laboratory Lead Executive at the Ethiopian Agricultural Authority, specializing in animal products and inputs quality and safety testing. He has a PhD in Food Hygiene & Technology with a DVM and MSc, committed to ensuring food safety, public health, and regulatory excellence across Ethiopia's agricultural value chain.

He is an expert in food/feed safety and quality testing activities such as veterinary drug residues and chemical contaminants surveillance and regulation, capacity-building initiatives for laboratory professionals, inspectors and regulatory personnel. He is currently working on advancing safe and quality animal-source food production, with a particular focus on strengthening surveillance systems for antimicrobial residues and contaminants in Ethiopia. Primarily working at the intersection of laboratory, regulation, and public health to support the development of safe, sustainable, and standards-compliant food systems.

He has also contributed to the development of regulatory frameworks, technical guidelines, and training programs aimed at improving food safety and public health outcomes. And has played a key role in preparing laboratory quality management system documents, standard operating procedures, training materials, establishment and attainment of accreditation of a testing laboratory and development of surveillance strategies aligned with national and international standards.