

Determining Feed Resources and Feeding Circumstances: Usefulness and Lessons Learned by Applying the Feed Assessment Tool 'FEAST' in Tanzania

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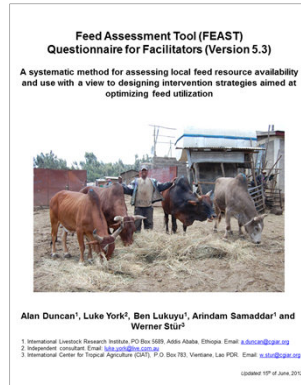
Optimal Utilization of Available Feed Resources for Improved Livestock Productivity

Introduction

- Feeds and feeding are major constraints in improving dairy production in Tanzania.
- Improper feed strategies due to information gap on feeds and feeding situation.
- A Feed Assessment Tool (FEAST) was designed to assess feeds and the feeding situation and optimize utilization of available resources.
- FEAST was applied within the MilkIT project in Tanzania.

FEAST Methodology

- FEAST was conducted in Pemba, Morogoro and Tanga regions of Tanzania.
- 22 Focus Group Discussions (FGD) and 101 individual interviews conducted.
- Qualitative and quantitative data were collected.
- Data analysis was through FEAST excel template.



Lessons Learned

- Ensuring equal representation of gender, wealth classes and production systems of the target group is crucial.
- There should be no more than 20 participants in the Focus Group Discussion.
- An additional instrument needs to be developed to map linkages of identified challenges with feeds and feeding, so that farmers can find their own solutions.
- FEAST is flexible and can be expanded to indicate the dynamics of various local feed resources and feeding practices.

Conclusion

FEAST is a useful component to help identify potential entry points for interventions to enhance strategic feeding in livestock production.

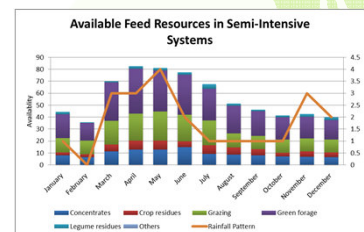
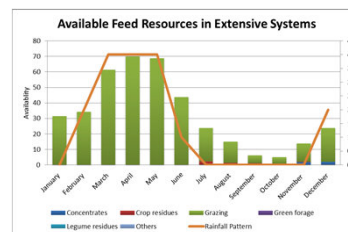
More information is available at <http://www.ilri.org/feast>

Application of FEAST

- The tool was applied in 10 villages of Pemba, Morogoro and Tanga Regions
- 300 farmers were involved with gender representation of 52%, 38% and 10% male, female and youth, respectively

Main Challenges Identified

- Strongly seasonal availability of feeds in extensive and semi-intensive production systems affects milk production
- Extensive systems:** Land issues, water shortage, gender, inputs and marketing
- Semi-intensive systems:** Breeding bulls, knowledge in animal husbandry and milk marketing



Usefulness of the Tool

- Training of 37 trainers in Tanzania.
- Local feeds and feeding practices in the sites were identified in the dairy value chain context.
- Farmers and livestock keepers identified key issues, challenges and opportunities related to livestock and feeds.
- Fully participatory.



- Pairwise ranking and prioritization of challenges and opportunities related to feeds and feeding puts them in overall context of livestock production.
- Provides insights for planning and designing entry points of feed interventions.
- Ensuring equal representation of gender, wealth classes and production systems of the target group is crucial.

MilkIT: Enhancing Dairy-based Livelihoods in India and Tanzania Through Feed Innovation and Value Chain Development Approaches



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