Livestock Feeds Assessment in southern highlands in Tanzania

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Introduction

- Livestock contributes significantly to Tanzania’s agricultural GDP (Michael, et al. 2018) being the second country in Africa after Ethiopia in cattle population
- Amongst the costs involved in cattle production, the feeding component takes ~70% suggesting (Odero-Waititu, 2017)
- Matching forages with the correct ecologies (Mwenda et al., 2017 and the social-cultural background of the communities involved livestock is key to increasing forage production.
- Three districts namely; Mufindi, Njombe, Rugwe in Tanzania southern highlands were selected in consultation with Tanzania Livestock Research Institute (TAURI).
- In every district, two wards were randomly selected for the study.
- To collect data, procedure of the Feeds Assessment Tool (FEAST- https://www.ifad.org/feast) (Duncan et al., 2012) was implemented in each of the wards.
- The tool contains two major sections; Focus Group Discussions (FGD) and Individual Farmer interviews in the same setting.
- However, the procedure was modified to capture responses for women and men separately hence the FGD was done separately for women and men.

Objective

We set out to assess the farming context and role of livestock involvement in household incomes in three district in Tanzania highlands in order to inform subsequent forage interventions.

Findings

Table 1. Relative percentage (%) livestock contribution to household incomes in Mufindi, Njombe and Rugwe districts of southern highland in Tanzania

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income category</th>
<th>Mufindi</th>
<th>Njombe</th>
<th>Rugwe</th>
<th>Mean</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farmers’ income</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>25.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s income</td>
<td>40.0</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>26.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s income</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>20.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total income</td>
<td>80.0</td>
<td>75.0</td>
<td>70.0</td>
<td>71.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Women FGD at Ikuna ward

Figure 1. Mean cultivated fodder (Ha) in Mufindi, Njombe and Rugwe districts of Tanzania Southern highlands disintegrated by gender and in two Wards, in each District.

Figure 2. Feed availability in Mufindi (a), Njombe (b) and Rugwe (c) districts

...findings

- Supplementary with energy rich supplements
- Grasses for cut and carry system – under rainfed
- Irrigated fodder production
- Supplementary using protein by products e.g.
- Short duration/Annual fodder crops
- Establishment of fodder trees and shrubs.

Conclusions

- Livestock plays a significant role in the area of study, but inadequate feed availability in more than six months annually contribute to low livestock productivity.
- Farmers have not engaged fully in forage cultivation necessary to improve livestock productivity and this opportunity should be explored.
- Improving and promoting forage cultivation, through awareness, demonstration approaches and piloting involving farmers’ would be desirable.

References


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