

Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems

INNOVATION SUMMARY: DATABASE OF LOCAL FEED RESOURCES

This innovation consists of a database of local feed resources for Ethiopia and Burkina Faso. The database consists of nutritional value or quality data including chemical composition, digestibility, impact on animals (whenever available), prices, geographical location or distribution of feed types, seasonal availability, and accessibility in different agro-ecologies. The database will include features that will enable users to download, sort, search and identify data by feed type, location, seasonal availability, and prices.



Lead Institutions:
Hawassa University;
International Livestock
Research Institute



Developed In:
Ethiopia &
Burkina Faso



Innovation Type:
Technology



New/Adapted:
New



Created For:
Women and
Men



Nutrition Linkage:
Improved
Productivity

The Problem and Its Importance

Limited supply of quality feed is the most important problem constraining livestock productivity in developing countries. This limitation is not only a result of general lack in availability of feeds, but also in limited knowledge on available feed resources, especially nutritional contents, utilization, and rate of inclusion in rations. Moreover, given most feed in developing countries is sourced from natural pasture, crop residues and other agricultural by products, quality is variable both seasonally and from place to place. Price of feeds, usually being dependent on availability, is also highly variable among feed types and locations. An efficient utilization of available feed resources, therefore, requires an understanding of the different attributes of various available feed resources.

The Innovation and Potential Benefits

This database will help farmers and technicians not only identify feed resources available in their localities, but will also help them understand quality, prices and seasonal availability. This, in turn, will help them formulate feeds that not only fulfill nutritional requirements of a given animal at a given physiological stage, but also are of least cost option. The database will be used by local commercial farmers and technicians that support them in formulating profitable rations to their animals using locally available feed resources, and also by researchers who use or analyze data on feeds for their research purposes. Feed traders can also access the database to obtain information on feed prices and quality of feeds based on provenance.

Application of the Innovation

The database will list feed types in local names and local languages, which will enable local farmers and technicians to use the database without being constrained by language barriers. The database will be designed in such a way that variables that change with time, such as price and geographical distribution, will be updated in real time. For such updating and maintenance to happen, the database will be made accessible through the websites of national governmental agricultural research organizations.

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