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Sustainable Agricultural Livelihood Restoration, Rehabilitation and Resilience in Kenya

Guidelines on Sustainable Ruminant Feeds and Nutrition Security for Kenya

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

1.3 Annual national feed demand and supply

Kenya covers an area of 582,646 square kilometres and hosts 73 million heads of ruminants (5.1million dairy cattle, 21.65 million beef cattle, 25.3million sheep, 662,000 dairy goats and 35.4 million meat goats, 4.7 million camels among other livestock species). Non-Ruminants which include poultry (57.2 million), pigs (649,000), and rabbits (725,000) are produced under intensive or semi-intensive production systems. The non-ruminants mainly depend on non-roughage feeds (cereal and cereal by-products) placing them in direct competition with human beings for food.

The Kenya Feed inventory and feed balance assessment showed that Kenya is producing 46 million MT DM of animal feed resources against national feed requirement of 55 million MT DM indicating a deficit of 9 million MT DM. The competitive feed uses (alternative uses, wastages and losses) accounted for 46% of the land feed production potential of 46 million MT DM equivalent to 21 million MT DM. Therefore, on actual basis, the amount of feed available to the animals within the country is 25 million MT DM against a national feed requirement of 55 million MT DM resulting in a 60% feed deficit, hence feed and nutrition insecurity.

This guide is therefore, intended to give practical interventions to address sustainable feed production and utilisation for enhanced livestock productivity and improved livelihoods. The guide will target county governments to invest in appropriate interventions towards addressing perennial feed scarcity.