

## Sustainable Agricultural Livelihood Restoration, Rehabilitation and Resilience in Kenya

### Guidelines on Sustainable Ruminant Feeds and Nutrition Security for Kenya

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## CHAPTER 2 DRIVERS OF FEED AND NUTRITION INSECURITY

### 2.12 Poor feed planning and budgeting

Poor or lack of contingency planning in preparation for feed deficits is a serious challenge that contributes to feed inadequacy. Generally, there is no budgetary allocation to cater for periods and circumstances of feed deficits. Limited access to inputs and lack of subsidies on feed production has also diminished feed access. Limited data on the current livestock feed requirements and knowledge of the production potential of the available land make it difficult to have proper plan for the intervention strategies. Poor feed conservation practices, lack of knowledge on appropriate feed and feeding practices, and inadequate data on appropriate number of animals kept within specific production systems (stocking rate) also lead to feed inadequacy.

Poor feed conservation practices, lack of knowledge on appropriate feed and feeding practices, and inadequate data on appropriate stocking rate (the number of animals kept within specific production systems) constrain the efficient use of available feed and water resources. Thus proper planning and budgeting should embrace strategies to circumvent feed shortages and inefficient feed use. The vagaries of climate change are also negatively affecting the natural resource base especially in the fragile rangelands where 80% of the livestock are found. This should not be ignored in the planning.

In Chapter 3, issues affecting feed availability, access, utilisation and stability are addressed as pillars that support proper livestock production management to enhance feed and nutrition security. It is envisaged that understanding the contribution of each of these pillars and how they interrelate are key to sustainable livestock production.

### References

- Harinder P.S. Makkar, Paul Opio, Joseph Matere, Jay Angerer, Luca Innocente, Wamalwa Kinyanjui, Cyril Ferrand and S. Munyua (2020). National Feed Security System: what it entails and making it operational in East Africa. Broadening Horizons N°530.
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