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Sustainable Agricultural Livelihood Restoration, Rehabilitation and Resilience in Kenya

Guidelines on Sustainable Ruminant Feeds and Nutrition Security for Kenya

CHAPTER 5 FEED AND NUTRITION SECURITY OUTPUTS, OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS

5.1 Importance of feed and nutrition security

Feed and nutrition security is becoming increasingly important to sustain animal production and productivity in face of increasing demand for animal source foods. Despite these upward trends in demand, whether feed production can continue to meet the requirements of an expanded livestock industry is uncertain as feed production faces challenges related to climate change and competition for water and land for agricultural, urban and other uses. Alternatively, climate change could also cause a reduction in crop quality, rendering those products unfit for human consumption, but still suitable as animal feed. Future feed security in livestock production could become more tenuous due to increased variability in climatic conditions, necessitating either the movement of livestock or the transport of feed over longer distances. This development could be particularly relevant to livestock production systems which rely on a combination of intensive crop and extensive rangelands to meet feed demands.