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Sustainable Agricultural Livelihood Restoration, Rehabilitation and Resilience in Kenya

Guidelines on Sustainable Ruminant Feeds and Nutrition Security for Kenya

CHAPTER 3 KEY PILLARS AND ISSUES ON RUMINANT FEED AND NUTRITION SECURITY

3.2.2 Strategic Issue 2. Limited social access to feeds

The major factors contributing to limited social access to feed are as follows:

- i. Gender biases lead to inequality in land ownership, accessibility, and utilisation, limiting women's ability to produce feed.
- ii. Drug and substance abuse can lead to financial constraints, neglect of ruminants, and a negative impact on mental health, limiting a farmer's ability to access feed resources and markets.
- iii. Most smallholder farmers have low technical skills and knowledge in feed production and conservation, as most rely on natural pastures.
- iv. Retrogressive cultural practices can be a challenge. For example, communities that believe in Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) may restrict the ability of women to participate in feed production. Additionally, beliefs in witchcraft and other negative cultural practices may impact access to feed resources.
- v. Ethnicity can also be a factor, with minority communities sometimes being segregated and facing challenges in accessing resources for feed production.
- vi. Cattle rustling and insecurity can also disrupt feed production and limit the ability of farmers to produce enough feed for ruminants.
- vii. Changes in land use and land tenure systems limiting access to grazing land and pasture access
- viii. Most pastoralists do not engage in forage production since they depend on natural pastures
- ix. Marginalisation of some areas limit the access to inputs, services and markets, affecting accessibility to ruminant feed resources
- x. Limited inclusion of women and youth as key players in the feed value chain