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Sustainable Agricultural Livelihood Restoration, Rehabilitation and Resilience in Kenya

Guidelines on Sustainable Ruminant Feeds and Nutrition Security for Kenya

CHAPTER 4 STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS TO ADDRESS RUMINANT FEED AND NUTRITION INSECURITY

4.3 Pillar 3. Feed utilisation

The factors influencing feed utilisation include its quality, safety, standards, processing, and value addition, among other factors. This section contains the strategic interventions to address the critical issues hindering feed utilisation

4.3.3 Intervention 3. Strategies to improve feed safety during processing, conservation, storage and transportation

- i. Preprocessing feed materials and allowing them to dry to the required moisture level (12-13%) before mixing and storing.
- ii. Use improved methods of feed conservation ((hay, silage, haylage, standing hay, water and air tight containers)
- iii. Improve feed storage (Clean, well ventilated and vermin-proof storage barns
- iv. Minimise levels of pesticide residues in feeds by following the recommended period for use after pesticide application
- v. Minimise mycotoxins (aflatoxin) levels and heavy metals (Lead, Mercury) in preserved and stored feeds. For example, the use of Aflasafe to manage aflatoxin. It is used mainly on maize (apply 30-35 days after planting, which is about 2-3 weeks before flowering, by side-dressing along the rows on the soil surface).
- vi. Avoid feed adulteration and contamination with foreign objects that cause quality changes and lead to lower-quality feeds.
- vii. Establish feed testing laboratories at the County level, create awareness of the need for feed testing, and train more laboratory staff on feed testing
- viii. Train and sensitise farmers and business operators on feed safety and standards and associated changes