

Across Africa, Paravets popularly deliver private animal health services to rural and peri-urban livestock farmers, more often than not, filling the service gap caused by limited state extension resources. M4P livestock-related projects are increasingly leveraging Paravet services along with those of other actors such as agrovet traders and drug wholesalers and distributors to improve animal health leading to increased net incomes for poor livestock owners.

GEMS1 currently works with over 70 active Paravets on livestock induction (de-worming of endo-parasites and delousing of ecto-parasites, etc), an essential pre-requisite to effective livestock feed finishing. The Paravets have taken advantage of these activities to further expand their client base and services. In support of GEMS1 results measurement, Paravets monitor animal fattening (weight) and allocate values to animals pulled from herds for finishing (as opposed to purchase).

Paravets **Aliyu Kabir** and **Muse Ahmed Dederi** participating in the 2012 and 2013 GEMS1 feed finishing promotion campaigns briefly describe their experiences...

Aliyu Kabir...

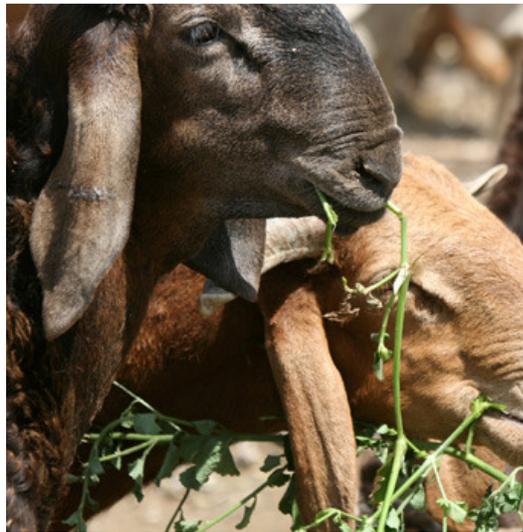


“Before working with GEMS1, I had particular difficulty convincing low-income farmers on the advantages of regular services for improved animal health. This limited my earnings and I was struggling to support my wife and six children.

Farmers introduced to feed finishing were quick to appreciate the complimentary role of animal health services. I now earn over ten times more from services, small quantities of feed supply and local market retainers.

From my additional income, I have bought a plot and motor bike, and increased drug and feed stocks. My children have better quality education and we have more household goods and better food.”

Musa Ahmed Dederi...



“I had been working with popular Farmer Field School (FFS) groups and started GEMS1 induction and feed demonstration with one group: interest and services quickly spread to other FFS groups.

My client numbers and income have expanded four times. I have used my income to employ one assistant Paravet, rent a shop, and buy more drugs and feed stocks. Life for my family has also improved especially our children’s education.

Feed finishing is an amazing business opportunity for Paravets and farmers with huge growth potential across Nigeria’s northern states.”

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