



PARVET MURTALA MOHAMMED (left) DISCUSSING FEED FINISHING PROGRESS with CLIENT NURA YAU

Murtala Mohammed...

Murtala is one of over 70 active paravets participating in GEMS1 livestock feed finishing promotion campaigns. The Project accompanies him on a services visit to feed finishing farmer clients at Dawakin Tofa Town in rural Kano State.

“A major challenge for Paravets has been convincing local farmers to pay for animal health services: they have difficulty seeing the link between improved animal health and increased incomes. Combining paravet services with livestock feed finishing has significantly changed this”, says Murtala.

“GEMS1 facilitated a training of trainers for ex-Government paravets in animal health induction services linked to feed finishing. They explained that feed finishing will not work without complimentary animal induction health.

I have since participated in the GEMS1 feed finishing campaigns of 2012 and 2013 for Salah when millions of sheep and goats are sold for household consumption.

A paravet’s work for GEMS1 includes mobilizing farmers for participation in feed finishing, delivery of animal induction services, advice on feed finishing, monitoring animal weight change, and putting values on animals that are taken from farmer herds for finishing.

GEMS1 pays us an induction subsidy of N150 for each small ruminant for the first few animals of each first time farmer participant. The farmer pays for the service after that.

Feed finishing of sheep and goats takes just 40-50 days compared with traditional fattening which requires 6-7 months. Farmers can now do this 2 to 3 times a year and earn substantially more incomes that just fattening for Salah as before.

What has feed finishing done for me? Well, I now service over 2,000 farmers compared with 500 before. In addition to regular fee services and GEMS subsidy payments, I also sell feed concentrate to individual farmers at a profit of N350 per 25 kilo bag. With my increased income I have trained and employed 4 assistant paravets to help with the workload, bought a motor bike, and increased my stock of drugs and feed. I am building a new house for my wife and 6 children and sending my eldest son to medical college in Kano.”



While animals are sold on the basis of appearance rather than weight, market dealers are paying higher prices for feed finished animals because of better condition appearance.

Farmers now see the increased income benefit from the combination of animal induction and use of feed concentrate. For me, follow-up advice to my farmers has been important as the feed finishing cycle requires a combination of regular animal induction service, the right amount of feed concentrate as well as additional animal watering daily.



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