

GEMS1 visits **Dawakin Tofa Town** in rural Kano State to interview farmers and livestock owners, first time participants in the Project's 2013 feed finishing campaign. All are hitherto experienced in traditional fattening of small ruminants for the annual Salah (Eid) Festival. They share their experiences...

Hajiya Rakiya...

"I am happy with the feed finishing of my 9 rams compared with fattening. Finishing has more advantages.

The rams gain more weight and look better: so the (livestock) dealers seem willing to pay more for them. The time needed for finishing is 50-60 days compared with 7-8 months for fattening.

I expect to make a profit of NGN 15-20,000 (\$100-133) on each ram which is 3-4 times more than what I would make from the fattening I have been doing for many years. I will use the profit to buy more, younger rams for finishing next year."



Ahmed Sani...

"I am a retired civil servant supporting 3 wives and 26 children so I still need to make money. I have been fattening rams for Salah for 30 years.

I tried the GEMS1 feed finishing approach on 5 rams this year. I bought them for NGN 11,000 (\$74) each and spent a total of NGN 3,000 (\$20) on feed concentrate. I have already sold 3 rams for between NGN 40-45,000 (\$267-300) each.

Overall, I expect to make at least three times more profit than fattening. I can also do this several times a year because it only requires 50 days compared with 6 months for fattening. From the sales, I will buy more rams and finish these for Christmas.

I have recommended feed finishing to the broader community: there is growing interest."

Nura Yau...



"The GEMS1 business story on finishing sounded convincing so I am doing over 50 rams for Salah.

I was able to buy more rams as I also have a cement and fertilizer trading business. Before, I was fattening which took 7 months. With finishing, the animals gain more weight faster and the livestock traders pay more for this condition. I expect to make at least 2-3 times more profit from finishing: I recommend it to everybody."



Ahaji Musa...

"I am finishing 4 rams for Christmas. I learnt about it from my neighbour Ahmed Sani who is finishing rams for Salah. I expect to make at least twice as much than from fattening. After selling, I plan to buy some younger cattle for finishing as there is more money to be made."

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