



EZEKIEL ODEH (left), GEMS1 RM ASSISTANT, INTERVIEWING FARMER ABDUL HAMID UBA at GIDANKURENI VILLAGE in KANO STATE

Ezekiel Odeh & Abdul Hamid Uba...

GEMS1 Results Measurement (RM) Assistant, Ezekiel Odeh, visits rural Gidankureni Village in eastern Kano State. His RM work here includes livestock feed finishing impact data collection. Here, we capture Ezekiel's interview and observations with farmer Abdul Hamid Uba who is a first time participant in GEMS1's 2013 livestock feed finishing campaign.

The campaign has been upgraded following lessons learnt from the 2011 and 2012 campaigns. Many new farmers and livestock owners have joined this year's intervention.

ABDUL'S FEEDBACK...

"This is my first year feed finishing and I did 3 largeframe rams for Salah which I recently sold for NGN 110,000/each (\$733) at very good profit. This will account for about 60% of my income this year, the rest of which comes from crop farming. I am part of a 25-member local farmer cooperative that deposited NGN 250,000 (\$1,667) with Bank of Agriculture to obtain a loan for members to buy rams for feed finishing. However, as no loan was given by the Bank, I used my savings to buy my rams. With more finance, the cooperative members could buy and finish more animals.

All our cooperative members are also smallholder crop farmers but the profit from feed finishing rams is better. I am single and will invest my profits in buying new, younger largeframe rams to start regular feed finishing. Other coop members plan to do the same. The feed finishing has generated a lot of interest with other local farmers: I know of 10 more that have started doing it for Christmas after I recommended it to them.

EZEKIEL'S OBSERVATIONS...

"I have been working on RM with various clients since 2008 using the Donor Committee for Enterprise Development (DCED) Standard. This is my first time with GEMS1 where an important entry point has been working with colleagues to ensure data collection questionnaires are correctly pitched for the type of beneficiaries being interviewed.

For example, you will find that feed finishing farmers do not easily understand questions like: What percentage has your income increased from doing feed finishing? What percentage of your total income from all sources does feed finishing comprise?

So we pitch the questions so the beneficiary can better understand them, like: What is your actual/expected net income (i.e. sales less expenses) this year? What was it last year? If your total net income this year is say N10, how much of it is feed finishing?

Our farmers' questionnaire is also pitched to capture information such as: whether farmers are properly applying their feed finishing training in practice which is important for systemic change; level of satisfaction with paravet services; and, copycat levels by other local farmers and livestock owners. We are also considering displacement.

GEMS1 appears to be well on target to meet and exceed its feed finishing impact and output indicator targets, especially for the poor and women. Abdul's feedback is a popular success story amongst the farmers involved in this intervention. A systemic change we would like to see more of is farmers doing feed finishing regularly rather than just for Salah.



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