



GEMS1 RM ASSISTANT, EZEKIEL ODEH (left), ELABORATES on FEED FINISHING IMPACT INFORMATION POINTS with PARAVET SERVICE PROVIDER, ABDULLAHI PANDA

Ezekiel Odeh & Abdullahi Panda...

GEMS1 accompanies our Results Measurement (RM) Assistant, Ezekiel Odeh, on a preliminary livestock feed finishing impact data collection visit to rural Gidankureni Village in eastern Kano State. Here, we capture Ezekiel's interview and observations with paravet Abdullahi Panda who has participated in GEMS1 livestock feed finishing campaigns for 2012 and 2013.

Paravets are important systemic change agents for GEMS1's support to markets and linkages for increasing competitiveness in Nigeria's red meat industry.

ABDULLAHI'S FEEDBACK... "Following the paravet training of trainers facilitated by GEMS1, we have been delivering the animal induction component of the annual feed finishing interventions. Where the farmer takes an animal from the herd (as opposed to a purchase), we assign it a value based on going market rates.

We monitor and report the weight of the animals before feed finishing and then at point of sale. We mobilize participating farmers and provide regular animal induction services during the 40-50 day feed finishing programmes for sheep and goats. GEMS1 provides us with a small subsidy per animal for first time farmers", says Abdullahi.

"When I first started with GEMS in 2012, I was providing animal health services to around 500 clients. This has now grown to well over 2,000. Over the same time, my net income has increased from an average of N40,000/month to over N200,000/month, so I have employed 3 assistant paravets to help me.

The more business-minded farmers have gone from finishing for Salah to doing it regularly generating repeat demand for my induction services. I also now supply feed concentrate, making a profit of N250 per bag. The increased income has helped my family of 4 wives and 6 children in many ways: for example, I have finished a new house, put 2 of my children into private schools and assisted other relatives financially."

EZEKIEL'S OBSERVATIONS...

"GEMS1 is on track to achieve or exceed its feed finishing impact and output indicator targets including those for the poor and women. Paravets have an important partner role here as agents of systemic change in animal husbandry practices leading to expanded feed finishing outreach and improved quality animals for better meat.

Several paravets interviewed have significantly increased their incomes from working with GEMS1 on the feed finishing campaigns in 2012 and 2013. Importantly also, they are creating employment by taking on assistant paravets. It will be important for sustainability to have an exit strategy for the future training of paravets on animal health for feed finishing: the GEMS1 Team Leader suggests that the Project could partner with vet drug companies to deliver such training.

Our RM strategy for feed finishing includes capturing the impact of farmers and livestock owners that have copied what target groups are doing which may be significant, including contributions to increasing paravet client numbers."



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