

Addressing dry season feeding challenges in Mali by Mobile Choppers

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Key research activities

- Mechanized power and its role in feeding both humans and animals more efficiently have long been neglected in West African agriculture. ICRISAT along with its partners are taking corrective action.
- Key research activities were to make the farmers aware about the technology of chopping green and dry fodder for optimum and efficient utilization of CR using a machine and its cost benefit of technology and
- To identify a local fabricator to innovate it as per Malian situation.



Chopping of maize stover in Bougouni

Results and main findings

- Introduced 3 choppers adapted as per local context.
- Overall 372 persons from 9 villages of Africa RISING were trained on use of chopper technology.
- The middle age group of (42-48 years) men and women participated in the training from the selected villages of Koutiala, while in Bougouni younger women participation was observed.
- In Koutiala and Bougouni the total fodder collected in cartloads by the men farmers (300-1400 kg) were more than women farmers (186-940kg).
- Chopping of 50-100 kg/30 minutes of crop-residues vis-a-vis 8 hours manually.
- Chopping 20 charrettes or 2 tonnes/ 10 hours @ 500 CFA proposition to make the business reasonably profitable.



Chopping of dual purpose Fadda at Koutiala

How this work would continue in Africa RISING phase 2

1. It will assist in understanding the gender role in scaling out and up scaling of the technology using: community ownership as against private entrepreneurship.
2. Demonstration livestock trials to the farmers on effect of chopping-residues.
3. Testing new silage making options. at village level

Implications of the research for generating development outcomes

Availability of improved management options for efficient and optimum utilization of crop residues for dry season feeding.

Current partnerships and future engagements for out scaling

1. Partners: ICRISAT, ILRI, IER, AMEDD, MOBIOM, IITA, 34 farmer organisations
2. Engage self help groups/farmer organizations and incentivizing farmers for crop-residue collection and linking it with fodder markets.
3. Using ICT, gender and youth in forefront. Making new partnerships such as Heifer International, Livestock for Growth Mali Agri-business Incubation Hub (MAIH) and in ICT.