

Maziwa Zaidi (More Milk) in Tanzania

Enhancing investment in the compounded feeds subsector in Tanzania

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Key messages

- Animal feed producers can more than double their income in the next few years with greater volume production and lower prices if the constraints in the commercial feed supply chain are tackled.
- Dairy farmers can increase animal performance and double income from milk sales if concentrate feed quality, delivery and use is improved.
- There is urgent need to establish a feed manufacture education, training and certification program in the commercial feed production sector through structured systems.

Objectives and approach

Data was collected through individual interviews with 55 concentrate feed producers [34 formal and 21 informal producers] and key actors e.g. the Tanzania Feed Manufacturers Association, Government officials and farmers. A total of 169 compounded feeds and 131 feed ingredients were collected for nutrients analysis using the NIRS method. The objectives of the study were:

- To understand the main actors and interactions in the animal feed value chain
- To assess variations in the nutrient content of compounded feeds and feed ingredients.
- To document the constraints and opportunities in the compounded feed production and supply chain in Tanzania.

Key results

- Compounded feed production is dominated by informal or backyard feed producers.
- There is very low use of dairy concentrate feeds due to perceived high cost.
- Farmers complained of poor quality compounded feeds on the market and hence poor milk yields.
- There is lack of reliable and affordable feed analysis facilities
- There is absence of a nutrition laboratory accreditation system and framework to regulate feed quality and standards.

Opportunities to invest and scale

Production of cost effective high quality compound feeds will justify increased input cost by farmers and transform national milk production in terms of quantity and quality. Opportunities for improving quality of compounded feeds are:

- Working with the Tanzanian Feed Manufacturers Association, the Tanzanian Bureau of Standards and the Ministry of Livestock Development and Fisheries to establish a self regulating feed standards scheme.
- Establish a training and certification scheme for small scale compounded feed producers
- Conduct farmer training and awareness creation to promote optimal usage of compounded feeds and develop targeted feeding strategies.
- Establish private sector-led self accreditation systems to ensure Good Laboratory Practice and improved feed testing facilities

