

# FEAST training workshop for master trainers on the Feed Assessment Tool (FEAST) in Rwanda Dairy Development Project (RDDDP) areas of intervention



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## Introduction

Livestock production is a significant component in the livelihoods of small-scale farmers who practice mixed crop-livestock production in Rwanda. Animal feed is a critical component of the livestock sector. Rwanda has over the years faced a significant challenge in producing sufficient animal feed to support the development of its livestock sector. The bulk of rural livestock farmers utilize grasses along with maize and legume residues in feeding their animals. The feed is of low nutritive value, which affects livestock productivity. The increasing awareness of the challenge in feed availability has led to numerous efforts by the livestock research and the development community to invest in livestock feed interventions. The approach has had limitations however as the interventions tend to be proposed by scientists and the solutions are not always compatible with the local context. Important constraints such as availability of labour, credit and inputs along with access to markets have often been overlooked in development of the interventions which further impedes the success and sustainability of their implementation.

ILRI scientists are introducing the Feed Assessment Tool (FEAST) to provide research and development practitioners in Rwanda with a more systematic means of developing and assessing livestock feeding strategies. To support adoption of the FEAST approach and to enable a wider number of practitioners to use it, a FEAST training for master trainers was conducted in Rwanda. The purpose of this training was to introduce participants to the Feed Assessment Tool (FEAST) which is a participatory method to facilitate development of livestock feed interventions. Participants learned about the various components of FEAST including the Focus Group Discussion Guide, the Individual Farmer Interview, the Data App, the Reporting Format and how to move from FEAST to successful livestock feed interventions.

FEAST is a systematic approach to understanding the overall feeding system and thinking with farmers and local stakeholders about possible interventions. FEAST consists of two parts: (1) a rapid, participatory assessment using focus groups (Figure 1a), and (2) individual farmer interviews (Figure 1b). For the focus groups, the feed assessment is conducted with a group of farmers and other stakeholders and follows a set of guide questions. It identifies problems and opportunities within a given farming system and identifies potential interventions. A subset of farmers is then interviewed individually to generate quantitative information that is entered into a specialized computer application (the FEAST data app) – Figure 1c. The data app generates charts and tables that, along with the qualitative information from the focus groups, reveal the overall feed availability, quality and utilization. The solutions coming out of FEAST exercises are demand-driven and provide practical solutions that farmers can easily take up to deal with pressing feed issues

Figure 1: FEAST tools



a. Focus group discussion tool    b. Individual farmer interview    c. FEAST application

A FEAST training was held in Kigali, Rwanda 21 - 25 January 2019 to train master trainers on the Farmer Centered Diagnosis (FCD) using the FEAST tool. A total of 19 master trainers participated in the training (Annex 1). The participants were drawn from Rwanda Agricultural board (RAB), University of Rwanda (UR), and from the Single Project Implementation Unit (SPIU) of the IFAD/ Rwanda Dairy Development Project (RDDP) a project financed through an agreement signed between the Government of Rwanda and IFAD. They included mainly government officers with livestock knowledge who will facilitate the implementation of FEAST and subsequent feed interventions in selected RDDP project areas in Rwanda. The course followed a classroom instruction format with a field exercise. The course includes 12 lessons, 5-interactive scenarios related to key skills and over 200 review and assessment questions.

The training followed a typical 5-day classroom format (Annex 2). However, participants were exposed to an E-learning course: <http://learning.ilri.org/> and also the FEAST website: <https://www.ilri.org/feast> to familiarize themselves with the FEAST tool methodology in advance. The first day of the course introduces the participants to the first 3 lessons namely: The FEAST Concept, preparing for a Farmer-Centered Diagnosis and Focus Group Discussions. The second day focuses on collecting data from Focus Groups, Individual Farmer Interviews, making follow-up visits and summarizing data. The third day is entirely taken up by the field exercise where participants conduct a focus group and one-on-one interviews with local farmers near the training site. The fourth day gets participants started with the FEAST Data Application and entering data into the FEAST Data Application, sharing data with the FEAST Data Application and viewing outputs in the FEAST Data Application. The fifth and final day is committed to training on preparing the FCD Report and implementing livestock feed interventions.

The field testing of the FEAST tools was conducted at Eastland's Hotel in Kayonza district on 23 January 2019. The organizers brought together two groups of farmers. One group of 12 farmers from Kayonza district in a more intensive crop livestock system and another one also of 12 farmers from Rwamagana district in a semi extensive agro-pastoral system. A total of twenty-four farmers were involved in testing of the FEAST tools with trainers. The participants conducted two separate FGDs with groups from each of the selected areas (Photo 1 and 2) and thereafter each participant had a chance to conduct an individual interview with a farmer (Photo 3 and Photo 4).





Photo 1: Focus group discussion A



Photo 2: Focus group discussion B



Photo 3: Sindayigaya Abdoul Madjid, Head of Farmer Field Schools program in Rwanda takes a farmer through the individual questionnaire



Photo 4: Mukasafari Marie Anne from University of Rwanda conducts an individual interview

## Next steps for implementing FEAST in Rwanda

One of the objectives of ILRI's technical support to Rwanda was to explore mechanisms for rolling out the Feed Assessment Tool (FEAST) in RDDP intervention areas to provide information that can be used to design intervention strategies. As a result, in close collaboration with local scientists and livestock experts at SPIU/RDDP, we selected target sites for FEAST implementation, prepared an activity workplan to enable participants to collect data using the FEAST components - individual farmer questionnaire and FEAST focus group discussion guide; and technical FEAST teams of 3- master trainers (MTs) that will comprise a facilitator, note taker and time keeper. This allowed formation of 5 groups (2 groups will comprise 3 MTs while 3 groups will comprise 4 MTS). Each group will be allocated to conduct one FEAST per site and one group will conduct one FEAST each in 2 sites (Table 1). The teams will jointly undertake analyses of the collected data on local feed resource availability and use and produce a FEAST report as well a data set in Excel and Zlib. formats.

Table 1: Sites for Implementation of FEAST, 11-15 February 2019

Groups of MTs	District	Sector	Cell
1	Nyagatare	Rwimiyaga	Gacundezi
2	Gicumbi	Rutare	Gatwaro
3	Musanze	Kinigi	Nyonirima
4	Rubavu	Mudende	Kanyundo
5	Nyanza	Kibirizi	Rwotso
6	Rutsiro	Boneza	Remera

The sites were selected depending on a combination of the following characteristics:

1. Farming systems (choosing extensive crop-livestock systems, semi intensive mixed farming/agro pastoral systems and extensive systems – grazing systems)
2. Land availability (small, medium, large)
3. Milk production zones (high and low milk producing zones)
4. Cattle population densities
5. Availability of feed resources (abundance to extreme scarcity)

Table 2: Composition FEAST implementing teams

Group #	Group members	District to be covered
1.	1. Nyiransengimana Eugenie 2. Mukasafari Marie Anne 3. Niyireba Remy Titien 4. Dusingize Christine	Rutsiro
2.	1. Niyiragira Vincent 2. Kagwa Evalde 3. Manishimwe Albert	Nyagatare
3	1. Uwimana Gaspard 2. Mukakalisa Christine 3. Murera Aimable 4. Karege Callixte	Nyanza
4	1. Hitimana Pierre Celestin 2. Gasana Joseph 3. Bampiriye Evelyne	Musanze
1	1. Nyiransengimana Eugenie 2. Mukasafari Marie Anne 3. Niyireba Remy Titien 4. Dusingize Christine	Rubavu
5	1. Mupenzi Mutimura 2. Ndayambaje Nathan 3. Semahoro Fabrice 4. Sindayigaya Abdoul Madjid	Gicumbi

Table 3: Activity workplan developed with participants and RDDP project

Type of Activity	Jan 2019		February 2019				March 2019			
	WK3	WK4	WK1	WK2	WK3	WK4	WK1	WK2	WK3	WK4
Initial meeting to make workplan and logistics for FEAST										
Obtain approvals, facilitation and communication										
Implement FEAST in all sites										
Data entry and report writing										
Submit FEAST zlib. And Excel files to ILRI for verification*										
Submit FEAST reports to ILRI for review*										
ILRI return reviewed reports to teams										
Teams finalize reports										
Teams submit finalized reports to ILRI for final checks*										
Final edits of FEAST reports and submission to RDDP										

\* Submission of FEAST reports, FEAST zlib. and Excel files to ILRI will be coordinated by Joseph Nshokeyinka of RDDP

The following are the general agreements made about the implementation of FEAST

1. Dr MUPENZI Mutimura (RAB) will take the overall technical supervision of FEAST exercise in all sites while Joseph Nshokeyinka will take charge of logistics and other administration matters.
2. ILRI needs to submit outputs for this activity by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.
3. Submission of FEAST reports, FEAST zlib. and Excel files to ILRI will be coordinated by Joseph Nshokeyinka of RDDP.

Time to Graduate!

All the participants were awarded with a certificate of participation by Mr. Alexis Ndagijimana Acting SPIU Coordinator of IFAD Funded Projects under Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board who also closed the workshop officially (Photos 5 and 6).



Photo 5: Mupenzi Mutimura receives a certificate of participation at the end of the training workshop



Photo 6: Nyiransengimana Eugenie receives a certificate of participation at the end of the training workshop



Annex I: Team composition during the training on Feed Assessment Tool (FEAST) under the RDDP

No	Names	Institution
1	Mupenzi Mutimura	RAB
2	Ndayambaje Nathan	RAB
3	Semahoro Fabrice	RAB
4	Murera Aimable	RAB
5	Sindayigaya Abdoul Madjid	SPIU IFAD/RDDP
6	Bampiriye Evelyne	RAB
7	Nshokeyinka Joseph	SPIU IFAD/RDDP
8	Manishimwe Albert	RAB
9	Uwimana Gaspard	RAB
10	Niyiragira Vincent	SPIU IFAD/RDDP
11	Niyireba Remy Titien	RAB
12	Gasana Joseph	RAB
13	Nyiransengimana Eugenie	RAB
14	Hitimana Pierre Celestin	RAB
15	Kagwa Evalde	RAB
16	Mukakalisa Christine	RAB
17	Dusingize Christine	University of Rwanda (UR)
18	Mukasafari Marie Anne	UR
19	Karege Callixte	UR

## Annex 2: The five-day FEAST training program

Day 1 – Introducing FEAST and thinking about focus groups	
Welcome and introducing the FEAST concept	
8:30	Arrival/registration of participants
9:00	Welcome
	Introductions
	Pre-assessment
	The FEAST concept
11:00	Coffee break
Farmer-centred diagnosis and focus groups	
11:30	Preparing for a farmer-centered diagnosis
	Mock activity: selection farmers for focus group discussions
13:00	Lunch break
14:00	Preparing for a farmer-centered diagnosis
	Focus group discussions
	Mock focus group discussions
15:45	Coffee break
16:00	Focus group discussions
16:15	Day 1 Wrap up/Preparation for day 2
Day 2 agenda: More on focus groups and introducing farmer interviews	
Farmer-centred diagnosis and focus groups (continued)	
8:30	Arrival/registration of participants
9:00	Overview
	Collecting data from focus groups
10:45	Coffee break
11:15	Collecting data from focus groups
Individual farmer interviews	
11:45	Individual farmer interviews
	Farmer interview role-play
13:00	Lunch break
14:00	Individual farmer interviews
	Follow up visits
	Summarizing data
16:45	Day 1 Wrap up/preparation for day 2

### Day 3 – Practicing FEAST in the field

Day 3 will be entirely taken up by the field exercise where participants conduct a focus group and one-on-one interviews with local farmers near the training site.

Field exercise to practice FEAST data collection	
7:30	Meet at classroom site, travel to field exercise site
8:30	Review of Day 1/overview of field exercise
9:00	Overview
9:30	Breakout Groups: FEAST focus group discussion exercise
12:30	Selection of farmers for individual interviews
13:00	Serve refreshments to farmers
13:30	Individual farmer interviews
14:30	Serve lunch to individual interview respondents
15:30	Return to classroom site
	Debrief participants on field exercise
	Peer review exercise
17:45	Wrap up day 3 and close

## Day 4 – Entering FEAST data

Entering FEAST data	
8:15	Arrival
9:00	Overview
	FEAST data application and entering data
10:45	Coffee break
11:00	Entering data into the FEAST data application
13:00	Lunch Break
14:00	Entering data into the FEAST data application
15:30	Coffee break
15:45	Data handling with the FEAST data application
	Interpreting graphs
17:00	Day 4 Wrap up

## Day 5 – Reporting and implementation

Reporting	
8:00	Arrival/registration of participants
8:15	Overview
8:30	Reporting
10:00	Coffee break
10:30	Reporting
13:00	Lunch
Implementing livestock feed interventions	
14:00	Implementing livestock feed interventions
15:00	Coffee break
15:15	Implementing livestock feed interventions
16:15	Wrap up
16:20	Post assessment
16:50	Working coffee break
17:30	Participant survey
17:45	Final Q&A
18:00	Close