Context

Smallholder milk yield per cow in most developing countries is around one ton per year, whereas it is almost five tons in Thailand (IFCN Data). This is mainly because of limited knowledge of farmers on matching nutrients and economical production

Our innovative approach

- Provide digital advisory service by developing a mobile based tool (OFA) that helps to determine least cost diets
- Identify similar proposed tools such as FST and R8 to understand comparative advantage of each
- Facilitate choice of most appropriate tool for different types of farmers and production systems

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POVERTY REDUCTION, LIVELIHOODS & JOBS

Feed balancing tools: Solution to match nutrients and economical production

Key findings

- Application of tools can decrease feed cost to below 50% (currently about 70%)
- Economics of feeding is effected by choice of tool
- Simplicity of use is an important criteria for tool selection

Tools	DMI (kg/day)	ME density (MJ/kg DM)	Feed cost (Rs/day)	% feed cost / milk income
OFA	12.41	9.59	120.80	40
FST	13.48	8.79	128.30	43
Rumen8	12.80	9.77	141.33	47

Outcomes

➢ OFA takes only 3 to 5 minutes in smart phones to evaluate current ration by extension agents and advise on least cost balanced rations

➢ FST can formulate ration using smart phones by matching availability and requirement of nutrients in diets

➢ Rumen8, with the support of nutritional expert can best formulate diet for high yielding animals in commercial farms and prevent acidosis

Future steps

Test the feeding tools in the field and evaluate the usefulness for different type of farmers and production systems

Partners