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RESILIENT AFRICAN FEED AND FODDER SYSTEMS PROJECT

Annual Report
December 2022 to November 2023

RESILIENT AFRICAN FEED AND FODDER SYSTEMS (RAFFS) PROJECT
(Investment Document INV-051215: Evidence Driven Short Term Solutions to Build Resilience and Address the Adverse Effects of Crises on African Feed and Fodder Systems)

RAFFS Project Annual Report
Reporting Period: 1st December 2022 to 30th November 2023

Theme: *Engendering Greater Understanding and Setting Foundations for Enhanced Capacities to Build Resilience and Address Feed and Fodder Shortages on the African Continent*

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Resilient African Feed and Fodder Systems (RAFFS) project is jointly funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and the African Union Commission (AUC). This three-year emergency project addresses the worsening food and nutrition security caused by recent crises that have adversely affected Africa's feed and fodder systems and the production of livestock-sourced foods. With a financial resource of USD 6 million, the project seeks to leverage evidence-based solutions for short-term interventions to improve access to affordable, high-quality feed and fodder in six AU Member states: Cameroon, Kenya, Nigeria, Somalia, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. This is essential for ensuring the sustainable production of livestock-sourced foods.

This report, '***Engendering Greater Understanding to Set a Transformative Agenda for Addressing Feed and Fodder Shortages on the African Continent,'*** captures progress in executing the RAFFS project activities from 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2023. The RAFFS project successfully executed 70% and 31.9% of Year 1 and overall program activities, respectively. This resulted from instituting fast-tracking approaches that enhanced project delivery, the enthusiastic reception by key stakeholders at the political levels, public sector and private sector among others, and the establishment of Multistakeholder Platforms at country levels and Steering and Technical Committees at the continental level.

This report has five main parts. The introduction highlights the context and rationale behind the RAFFS Project's action on the critical role of feed and fodder in human food and nutrition security. This is followed by a background on the project, its genesis, an updated Theory of Change, governance structures, knowledge management, communication and visibility strategy, financials, monitoring and evaluation, and the context of the reporting period.

The report covers key progress made on each of the four result areas. Result One: *A Knowledge and Analytical Ecosystem for Informing Evidence-Based Solutions* covers quantifying the effect of global triple crises on Africa's feed and fodder systems and establishing functional knowledge ecosystems and analytical capacities for informing evidence-based solutions. It captures the progress made in attaining two outputs, precisely, the enhanced understanding of the impact of the crises on feed and fodder systems in priority livestock value chains, the status of data and digital capacities and ecosystems for generating evidence-based information, and the requisite infrastructure built to operationalize data management.

Under result two, the report captures the progress made in mapping and profiling viable business models and approaches for addressing feed and fodder shortages and establishing and strengthening Multi-Stakeholder Platforms in Member States and at the regional levels. This aims to drive and coordinate short-term interventions, associated stakeholder financing linkages, and Innovative Investment Mechanisms to address Feed and Fodder Shortages.

Progress made under Result Three during the reporting period highlights the achievements in *empowering women's participation in the Feed and Fodder, Animal-Sourced Food Supply Chains, specifically* the activities relating to needs assessment, capacity enhancement, and strategies initiated for financing, insurance, and business incubation. Under Result Four, the progress made in creating an enabling environment that supports a sustainable and resilient feed and fodder industry specifically highlights the assessment and boost to accelerate the processes of establishing Kenya and Uganda's feed and fodder sector policies and regulatory frameworks.

The final parts of the report capture the progress in establishing the project architecture including; knowledge management, communication, and visibility, setting up governance and M&E frameworks, the challenges, gaps, lessons learnt, recommendations, and the way forward. In hindsight, the evidence captured out of the activities implemented during the reporting period, pointing to the glaring mis/dis/under-articulation of Africa's feed and fodder sector presents the urgent need to change the sector's structure, narrative, and language, which can only be partly addressed or packaged as Proof of Concept to inform upscaled interventions in additional AU Member States to transform the feed and fodder sector.

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BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

The fourth Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) Biennial Review Report (BRR), endorsed by the 4th Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water, and Sustainable Environment (STC-ARDWE) showed that no African Union (AU) Member State (MS) is on track to achieve the Malabo Declaration goals and targets, a set back from the 3rd BRR period. While a few more countries than in the 3rd BRR cycle are progressing towards the set goal, it reflects, in no small measure, the compounding consequences of the successive triple global crises (3C crises), COVID-19, the Russia-Ukraine conflict, and climate change on Africa's agriculture sector.

Africa's livestock sector is critical for food and nutrition security, livelihoods, and incomes. Endowed with a third of the global livestock herd, Africa's livestock sector boasts of the fastest growing value chains in some countries and regions, out competing food and cash crop sectors5, generating 24% of the continent's agricultural GDP, and as much as 50 to 73% in at least 10% of the countries. Recent data shows that of all the production/ agri-food sectors, youth are most involved in animal farming. Among Africa's productive sectors, livestock has the most significant capacity to stimulate a multiplier effect. It has strong spillover effects, providing stimulus for growth in other agricultural, manufacturing, and service sectors. Any effect on the livestock sector directly impacts investments and employment in these related sectors. Impacts of the triple global crises have been felt across the livestock sector, with critical effect on livestock feed and fodder resources, the largest single input into livestock production, constituting 60 to 70% of the total cost of raising livestock.

Feed and fodder are crucial in livestock production, productivity, growth, stability, and resilience. Worldwide, sixty percent of grain cultivated is designated for livestock feed, and the total agricultural land spans around five billion hectares, accounting for 38 percent of the planet's surface area. Roughly a third of this land serves as cropland, while the remaining two-thirds consists of meadows and pastures for grazing animals. In stark contrast, the situation in Africa shows limited grain production allocated for livestock feed, and available land for livestock is declining rapidly due to competing demands. Most livestock keepers in Africa rely on whatever feed is accessible rather than aiming for specific targets.

Due to their deep-rooted policy asymmetry, African markets have not fully recognized the rationale for economic feed and fodder development and, therefore, failed to allocate the necessary institutional framework, goods and services, and incentives to grow the subsector. Livestock industries have been and are being developed without commensurate development of the feed and fodder subsector. Therefore, the importance and contribution of the feed and fodder subsector to achieving key CAADP objectives and Agenda 2063 goals are masked and subsumed.

The impact of feed and fodder shortages on livestock has been more visible and received the most attention, especially during drought, when massive livestock losses become a rallying point for humanitarian action. The second peculiarity for the livestock sector is that when the rains finally break after a prolonged dry season or a drought, it transiently relieves the immediate urgent and pressing issues but cannot compensate for the losses nor address the ever-increasing fragility, unproductivity, inefficiencies, and vulnerability of livestock systems. This has ultimately undergirded the perennial inability to harness the potential of Africa's enormous livestock resources to address critical development challenges.

The triple crises of climate change, COVID-19, and the Russia and Ukraine conflict revealed the underdevelopment of domestic and regional supply chains and the high dependency on importation exemplified by the superficiality of the development of domestic feed industries. Even where there is an apparent feed sector development (particularly for monogastric livestock, dairy, and aquaculture). There is low grain production for livestock, compared to sixty percent of global grain grown for livestock feeding. In Africa, grain for feed is underprioritized and highly outcompeted by unmet demand for grain for human consumption. The feed sector is relegated to mostly grain milling byproducts, industrial waste, and low-quality grain unfit for human consumption. There is a very limited capacity to produce micronutrients and other feed additives.

At the onset, a guesstimate calculation of Africa's annual investment loss in the feed and fodder industry was placed at a total value of USD 453.19 billion due to insufficient livestock feeds based on different parameters at the input, outcome, and impact level market failures. The top four most affected parameters were found as "Fragility and rapid decimation of animal resources-based downstream businesses due to feed shortages upstream" with an estimated loss value of 120 USD Billion (23.2%); followed by "Reliance on cheaper imports of livestock source foods and undermining growth of domestic livestock industries and jobs for the Youth" with an estimated loss of USD 110 Billion (21.3%). Associated with the confounding negative impact on youth employment, the third and fourth were the "Endemic resource-based conflict" and the "Unaffordability of livestock

sourced foods," estimated at 19.3% and 15.3 %, reflecting insecurity on the levels of community and food/nutrient levels. The four constitute 89% of the losses and missed opportunities and are not often captured on the public agenda, yet they have massive ramifications. These areas were validated by stakeholders, the continental Survey and the six in-country Assessments.

The project set out to establish the baseline and further understand the impact of the three crises on the feed and fodder sector, challenging key assumptions and asking critical questions[1] for the continental assessment and country-specific. Some of the key assumptions the project challenged included the visibility of the feed and fodder sub-sector as a separate entity and supply chain, institutionally subsumed under the livestock sector; identification of respective countries' lead institutions and the relevant stakeholders; the exclusion of women and youth from gainful work and employment in the feed and fodder supply chain despite the fact that twenty-four percent of youth in Africa's agri-food systems are involved in the animal resources sector[2]. In addition, it points to the need to resolving the existing financial failures by establishing partnership platforms that ensure women and youth access to appropriate financial and insurance packages and successful women's contributions to household food and nutrition security and establishment of policy, legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks to support the growth of the feed and fodder sector.

Over the past few decades, Strategic Partners and other actors have implemented initiatives, with particularly massive investments related to drought mitigation, rangeland development, and resilience building in the livestock sector to address and mitigate the impact of feed[3] and fodder shortages on the livestock sector. For AU-IBAR, the development and implementation of the RAFFS Project builds on the successes of projects that majorly supported pastoralist production with feed and fodder components, such as the Live2Africa project (2017-2023) and the Live2Africa project, respectively.

Key RAFFS Project stakeholders underscored the timeliness, relevance, and urgency of the Project, and the fit-for-purpose approach of the Project's Theory of Change, aimed at generating implementable solutions to what have been some of the most complex challenges emanating from feed and fodder shortages manifested as repeated market failures.

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[1] *What is the importance of African feed and fodder sub-sector development? What development objectives does the sub-sector contribute to? What market failures are related to feed and fodder shortages? Why the perennial result of inefficiencies and losses despite massive investments to support the livestock sector? What was lost in policy analysis, inference from that analysis, and translation to how the sector could better function to give the desired results?*

[2] *The 13th Malabo Montpellier Panel report – YOUTH AHEAD: Policy Innovations to Create Opportunities for Young People in Africa's Agrifood Systems. Youth Ahead: Policy Innovations to Create Opportunities for Young People in Africa's Agrifood Systems - Global Donor Platform for Rural Development*

[3] *Nominally feed covers all resources used to feed livestock, including concentrates, those forage-based, and others such as industrial waste. Monogastrics (poultry and swine), dairy cattle, and capture fish rely mostly on concentrates (here classified as feeds (80:20 feed:fodder), while ruminants depend largely on fodder (80:20 fodder:feed). Feed and fodder are used by the RAFFS Project and in this document to emphasize the apparent differential development of these resources.*

The Project's Theory of Change gives a unique niche and goes beyond the technical aspects to uncover and address the issues that underlie the structural constraints, asymmetry, and dysfunctionality of Africa's feed and fodder subsector. At the onset of the activities' implementation, stakeholders validated that the RAFFS Project is addressing an urgent need and adding value to the existing initiatives in the feed and fodder sector.

Stakeholders underscored that the RAFFS Project brought new understanding to the construct, functionality, and gaps in the feed and fodder sector through focused interrogation, analysis, and interpretation of findings, which has generated workable and implementable solutions to what have been perennially elusive issues. The Project has triggered a transformative agenda of better understanding the feed and fodder sub-sector and the need for its articulation and development as an economic sub-sector that provides critical input into the livestock sector.

RESULT ONE

Progress in Establishment of Knowledge and Analytical Ecosystem for Informing Evidence-Based Solutions

The RAFFS Project successfully undertook a survey and assessment at the continental and in six countries respectively to enhance understanding of the impact of the recent and ongoing global triple crises on African feed and fodder systems.

The studies were framed to understand the baseline vulnerability before the crises, their impact, and operational capacity for resilience. They focused on feed and fodder issues in priority livestock value chains across the RAFFS Project Result Areas. Nineteen stakeholder categories were identified to run the survey, and each was provided with a distinct questionnaire via SurveyMonkey. 339 respondents from 42 of the fifty-five African Union Member States participated in the survey.

The six-country assessment on the feed and fodder sector used an adapted Multi-Sector Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA), where national stakeholders allocated scores against a set of parameters. The findings were used as a reference for the final country rating. Five out of six countries ranked below 50%, with the final qualitative rankings as Unstructured (Nigeria, 35%; Uganda, 35%; Somalia, 39%; Zimbabwe, 51.5%; and Kenya, 44%), and Zimbabwe ranked marginally over 50% and was described as emerging.

RAFFS Country Assessment Findings, 2023

	Ranks at Project Initiation	Rankings after the National Assessment
Cameroon	Unstructured	Unstructured
Kenya	Unstructured	Unstructured
Nigeria	Unstructured	Unstructured
Somalia	Unarticulated	Unstructured
Uganda	Emerging	Unstructured
Zimbabwe	Complicated	Emerging

Another outcome of the continental survey and six-country assessment was the articulation of feed and fodder indicators, the definition of advanced tools, and the utilization of software to enhance data collection and analysis efficiency and accuracy.

The RAFFS Project initiated an upgrade of the data management infrastructure in the feed and fodder sub-sector, integrating platforms, ecosystems, and delivery systems to enhance the collection, transmission, analysis, dissemination, and interactive platforms of data and information, along with feedback loops regarding feed and fodder in African countries. This process also involved analyzing the existing data management at AU-IBAR, which led to the adaptation of PRINCE2 to improve project execution efficiency and the eventual institutional infrastructure for data management.

A workshop with experts from six-member states was held to gather inputs to inform the drafting of guidelines for a Feed and Fodder Data Management Framework and a platform for an integrated and harmonized multi-actor ecosystem that aligns with the needs of RAFFS Project countries. These activities were aimed to ensure the accuracy and relevance of the data and recommendations produced by the RAFFS Project and to involve key stakeholders in the process to build ownership and commitment to the project's goals. These guidelines will serve as a foundational document for the Feed and Fodder Data Management Framework. Additionally, a strategy for capacity building, outlining specific training areas, including a roadmap for the implementation of feed and fodder data management guidelines.

The Feed and Fodder Data Guidelines and respective data management action plans formed the basis for upgrading country data management infrastructure, integrated platforms, and ecosystems in 2024 / 2025.

RESULT TWO

Progress on Viable Business Models, Strategic Partnerships, Catalytic Interventions

The continental survey results encompassed various business elements of the feed and fodder sector, including models, business development services, financial service providers, insurance and risk management services, credit, and financial products. This also led to successfully identifying key actors, existing networks, and financing gaps. These include the African Women in Animal Resources Farming and Agribusiness Network (AWARFA-N), financial institutions, insurance institutions, traders of seeds, feeds, and other feed and fodder-related inputs, off-takers of livestock products, and other feed and fodder (and Livestock) supply chain actors.

Based on the outcomes of the continental Survey and the six-country Assessments, viable business and financing models were identified and assessed based on the expected benefit and value proposition. Three out of five models were distilled as feasible: the five-actor Commercial off-taker anchored feed and fodder production model as the most suitable for all the countries; the Cooperative Model was more appropriate in Kenya; Perfometer model, closely similar to the 5-actor model would work in Kenya, Uganda, Zimbabwe, and Nigeria but may not be applicable in Somalia due to lack of established technical advisors or robust industry association for camel dairy and beef. Implementation guidelines were developed and targeted for years 2 and 3 for each model.

The continental survey results indicate that many African nations neither perform feed inventories nor create yearly feed balances. In cases where feed inventories and national feed balances are kept, the data is infrequently utilized to inform sector investments or to develop a robust emergency alert and response system.

Under the RAFFS Project, a pre-El Nino campaign was conducted to raise awareness of the potential losses associated with excessive rains in the region. The campaign articulated pre-emptive actions to curb post-harvest losses, including stockpiling of ready fodder before the rains and a call for coordination of sector actors. The campaign was televised, aired on radio prime time media events on NTV channels in Kenya and Uganda, hosted panels of upstream feed and fodder actors, financial service providers, public sector, and development institutions, and was boosted through social media. Activity Report_El-Nino Sensitization Program_RAFFS202309.pdf

Another remarkable progress during the reporting period under this output is in the development of the guidelines for the formation and operationalization of the Multi-stakeholder platform that that will drive the feed and fodder agenda in the respective countries, in addition to this, a proposal of the constellation of actors to drive the feed and fodder processes, and a draft outline of the key performance indicators for the platform to facilitate a self-evaluation for each of the country Multi-stakeholder platforms (MSPs)

To support the enterprise owners in the feed and fodder sector to raise capital for start-ups and ex- pansion of their enterprises, guidelines were developed for profiling the business and investment op- portunities in their enterprises, through investment pitches. This was aimed to also support the women in feed and fodder businesses to access more capital in various ways such as commercial bank financing, private equity among other sources.

RESULT THREE

Progress on Empowering Womeno Participate and Benefit from Feed and Fodder and Animal-Sourced Food Supply Chains for Enhanced Food and Nutrition Security

In the initial phase, the assessment of women's active participation in these supply chains was also captured in the continental survey and individual country assessments, respectively. The findings showed the gaps in financing, insurance, and management of the women-led firms, among other challenges. One of the critical barriers identified was access to financing and the ability to manage risks. The RAFFS Project, therefore, facilitated interactions with the financing and risk management sectors. "To devise and suggest various approaches for financing and attracting investments specifically for women-operated feed and fodder activities". This move aimed to ensure that women could engage in these sectors with confidence and support.

Capacity-building activities were carried out at the firms' and individual levels to improve formalization, mobilization, and database management for women involved in the sector. This resulted from dialogues that the project team conducted in all the six project countries to share information on how the women in Feed and Fodder and related enterprises can be supported on the Financing, risk management programs (Insurance), and other business development services. Training needs assessment was conducted among the women during the launch of the assessment, and priority areas of capacity development were listed. The assessment also identified priority interventions to alleviate inefficiencies in feed and fodder systems and the resulting under-accessibility and affordability of livestock-sourced foods, particularly by the most vulnerable rural groups of women and under-their-care children.

The RAFFS Project leveraged the African Women in Animal Resources Farming and Agribusiness Network (AWARFA-N) to empower women to engage with and benefit from feed and fodder supply chain opportunities. The AWARFA networks had already been formed in Uganda, Nigeria, and Zimbabwe, so the implementation of project activities was smooth. The Project supported the establishment of the AWAR—FA-N Chapters in Cameroon, Kenya, and Somalia.

All AWARFA-N chapters were supported to enhance their formalization and expansion efforts. Additionally, drawing on insights shared by AWARFA-N chapters, the project successfully identified strategic financing and insurance partners to develop solutions that bridge the business development gaps in the feed and fodder and livestock-sourced food supply chains. Several strategies to improve women's access to finance were identified for each country, including incubation and mentorship programs, guarantee funding, and working capital financing, which will be prioritized for implementation by the AWARFA-N Chapters in the coming year.

RESULT FOUR

Progress on Policy, Regulatory, and Institutional Reforms for the development of a more sustainable and resilient feed and fodder industry

The continental survey and country assessments revealed that most African countries' feed and fodder sectors were unstructured and characterised by limited or no policy, and legislative and institutional reforms were made to address the challenges caused by the three crises. This information led to the call for urgent action, which was presented to the Ministerial level 5th Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (STC-ARDWE) to address feed and fodder shortages on the African continent and avert future feed-related disasters.

The decisions recommended by the STC were:

i. Formulation of Guidelines for the Development of Feed and Fodder Sectors or Industries as a critical strategic action to enhance the stabilization, efficiency of production of quality livestock-sourced foods, resilience and protection of livestock-based livelihoods, businesses and economies and for youth employment;
ii. Formulation of Guidelines to enhance emergency response within the feed and fodder sector utilizing tools that are explicitly based on feed and fodder sector indicators and linked to human food and nutrition security indicators that define livestock production targets, and with clear remedial actions to address feed and fodder shortages;
iii. Establishment of a continental African Alliance of Multi-Stakeholder Feed and Fodder Associations to guide the growth of more robust African Feed and Fodder systems;
iv. Institutionalisation of a monitoring and mutual accountability framework that generates an annual status report on the African Feed and Fodder Sector and highlights issues of strategic

and emerging importance in view of the dynamic environment and growing threats; and a call for the AUC to work with Development Partners, including development banks and other financing institutions to urgently mobilize resources for addressing the feed and fodder situation on the continent.

During the reporting period, the RAFFS Project's grounding interventions to enhance the enabling environment for the feed and fodder sector were made as follows:

(i) Key stakeholders' consultations and analysis resulted in the setting of a minimum list of indicators to monitor investments in the feed and fodder and livestock-sourced food supply chains.

(ii) Inclusion of an indicator on Consumption of Livestock Sourced Foods in the Livestock Sector Report on the progress of implementation of the LiDeSA that was integrated in the CAADP fourth Biennial Review Report. This was an effort of the RAFFS Project, ILRI, and other sector actors.

(iii) Strengthening Kenya's Animal Feed Regulatory processes through support to the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development Workshop to incorporate stakeholder views in the proposed Kenya Animal Feed Regulations 2023. The Ministry, in collaboration with stakeholders, had already conducted five regional meetings in June 2023. Through this effort, the project also raised the need to position the Feed subsector as an economic sector and enhance its emergency framework to ensure greater coherence with indicators within the subsector.

(iv) Supporting the Refinement of the Uganda Animal Feeds Bill 2023 through public participation, following a quick review to identify gaps and subsequent request to the Speaker of the Uganda Parliament to table legislative proposals that would position the country to develop an economic feed and fodder sector that can harness business and trade opportunities, accelerate sector growth, contribute to better food and nutrition security outcomes, protect livelihoods, and support increased youth employment.

PROJECT ARCHITECTURE

Knowledge Management, Communications, and Visibility

The RAFFS project developed and rolled out a comprehensive Knowledge Management and Communication Strategy to enhance overall knowledge management, advocacy, visibility, and communications. To foster stakeholder engagement at the overall project level, at the country level, and in collaborative learning, the project's microsite was incorporated into the AU-IBAR website in this first year of implementation. The development and operationalization of the Project's online ecosystem has seen among other achievements, a steady increase in registered users, establishment of the Project repository, successful advocacy campaigns related to predicted excessive El Nino rains, and mobilization of Ministers and other key decision makers to support the call for Urgent Action to Address Feed Shortages and Avert Future Feed Related Disasters.

To improve visibility and effectively reach diverse target audiences, the project team established strong relationships with and enhanced the capabilities of media organizations and journalists at the country, regional, and continental levels. This approach resulted in extensive coverage of the project's events, key messages, narratives, short videos, and other products across various media platforms, including print, television, radio, and social media. The feed and fodder narratives notably generated significant online engagement, with social media efforts yielding over 1 million impressions;#RAFFS; during the reporting period, fostering active audience participation that expanded conversations to broader groups. These accomplishments lay the groundwork for the project's remaining duration. Furthermore, the project was fully branded during the reporting period to enhance brand recognition and consistency.

Project Monitoring and Evaluation

The project team completed the indicator tracking table after several key stakeholder consultations. The indicators were further categorised as corresponding to impact, outcome, and output levels, with associated reporting responsibilities for the project and coordination teams in the country. The project M&E team further distilled the results from the continental survey and the in-country assessments' baselines and targets for outcome and output indicators. These were successfully populated into the indicator table, setting a sound basis for measuring and tracking progress during the implementation of project activities.

Project Theory of Change

The RAFFS Project Theory of Change was updated following final inputs and validation at the Stakeholder Project Initiation Meeting. Further elaboration of how the RAFFS Project results can contribute to achieving the Strategic Objectives of AU-IBAR's Strategic Plan 2024 - 2028, the Strategic Objectives of the Livestock Development Strategy for Africa, and contribute to the attainment of key goals and targets in the CAADP/ Malabo Declaration commitments. These are all key foundations for realizing the African Union Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Sustainable Development goals. The updated theory of change underscores and demonstrates how a better structured, resourced, vibrant, and sustainable feed and fodder sector can play in achieving the elusive agricultural sector development goals.

PROJECT HINDSIGHT AND WAY FORWARD

Challenges, Lessons Learnt, and Gaps

The project encountered a number of challenges, including identification of key actors, establishing modalities for handling an emergency, operational constraints like internet connection for some countries that affected interviewing, existing policy processes that gave little leeway for project preparation, and the need for political will to effect urgent changes that had budgetary implications. Two key lessons were learnt: identifying capacity gaps and taking a solution-oriented approach to find the support to overcome the constraint. Prior stakeholder engagement to manage expectations before commencing project activities is critical.

Emerging Narrative

During the reporting period, evidence of the mis/ dis/under-articulation of Africa's feed and fodder sector presented the urgent need to change the sector's structure, narrative, and language. Therefore, given that the project has a limited scope in terms of resources, time and geography, the work in the six countries will provide the Proof of Concept to inform upscaled policy work and and adoption of technologies and innovations to transform the sector.

Recommendations

The Recommendations from the first year of implementation are:

- Detailed articulation and formalization of implementation structures at country, regional, and continental level in alignment with the agreed priorities in each country and at regional and continental level.
- Focus on effective, impactful solutions based on the priorities of each of the six core countries, AWARFA-N Chapters, and continental-level initiatives that can catalyze real change.
- Fast-track implementation of the project activities – define an emergency approach and modalities at AU-IBAR, country, regional, and continental levels.
- Establish a data service framework to streamline access, utilize the feed and fodder sector, and avoid funding and data collection duplication.
- Adopt a Results-Based Approach in the implementation of project activities.

- Recognize that crises continue and can occur anytime generates partnerships to bridge gaps and build agility for countries in responding to emerging issues.
- Generation and dissemination of the project's knowledge products capturing the findings and 'new' narratives that challenge and replace the old paradigms.
- Knowledge requires action: urgent need for availability of finances and other resources to effect action necessary for change.
- Consider mechanisms financing and expansion of the project to a ten-year program and expand to 15 other Member States with substantive livestock sector and focus to raise the feed and fodder subsector on the continental agenda.
- Package STC Decisions to allow the sub-sectors' inclusion in the 2025 Kampala Declaration, replacing Malabo Declaration.

Way Forward

The second year of implementation (1 December 2023 – 30 November 2024) will predominantly vfocus on the Proof of Concept for proposed actions. This stage will begin with creating guidelines for data and ecosystem management. formation and operationalization of the multi-stakeholder platforms, communication, visibility, knowledge management, and proposition of models for commercial fodder production, contracting, financing, and investments.



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