

Assessments of Animal's Feeding in Rwanda

Moïse Nkurikiyumukiza*

Veterinary Medicine, Pharmacist and Ambulatory Clinic, Rwanda

***Corresponding Author:** Moïse Nkurikiyumukiza, Veterinary Medicine, Pharmacist and Ambulatory Clinic, Rwanda.

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Introduction

Animal feed resources remain a major constraint for livestock development and other business farming in Rwanda where grazing lands are shrinking sharply because crop cultivation is progressively encroaching on grazing areas with increasing human pressure (Mutimura and Everson 2011). Therefore, over 60% of households cultivating less than 0.7 ha, and owning livestock, practice zero grazing, where farmers cut-and-carry forage and crop residues to feed animals that are kept exclusively under sheds (Minagri 2009). In general, the main feed for dairy cattle under a zero-grazing system is Napier grass (*Pennisetum purpureum*). For more than a decade, efforts to improve the feed resource base and feeding management have been based on the introduction, characterization and evaluation of exotic forage species, including grasses and legumes. In other species like Poultry, pig, fishes were undergone in business farming they faced with high cost of feed as decline of farm profitability in Rwanda. About pets owner faced with lack of awareness about qualification of feed of their pets because here there is one Importer of dry food for pet which is royal canine.

In this document focused on the four animal's feed factories and one Importer of dry food of pets (Royal canine) present in three districts (Musanze, Bugesera and Rwamagana) of Rwanda and distribution of those products done by their agents to their customers. All those factories process the feed according to the species, age and production of animal and farmers require the record of their farm in order to support supplier to know what their customers need. The cost of feed is almost high because of some supplements are imported from foreign factories thus here the feeding concentrate require high cost therefore some farmers failed to feed their animal the food relative to their age and production type thus general farm production became affected by improper feeding and lead some metabolic diseases.

According to all constraints of insufficient grazing area for ruminants and high cost of feeds for non-ruminant and chickens we Veterinarians help the farm to use all possible ways of getting what their animal feeding like to use alternative method like to give their chicken nature vegetables leaves in order to gain some protein and vitamins to reduce some costed feed ingredients, second alternative ways for all species, is to improve quantity of water intake where Veterinarians help farmers to visit their farm to evaluate that if provision of palatable water is available at the farm level also to check if animals receive enough water per day because as water intake increased as dry food intake be saved therefore production increased because no dehydrated occurred in production animals. In this method of improving water intake we recommend the farm to use some water additives with ingredients rich in minerals.

Classification of animal's feeding exist in Rwanda

This is the way of identification of animal's feed based on their physical and therefore in Rwanda there are several classes of Animal's feed including natural grasses, processed feed with concentrate, pure brans, feed additives and pellets, Silage and Hay.

Natural grasses

Those are feeding by Cutting and carry as method used by big number of local farmers where there is no pasture for extensive or grazing especially for those families received cow from one cow per family program of government to reduce stunting growth in child and malnutrition of many families thus those cow receive grasses near the site of agriculture and reached near cow via cut and carry ways. Also many families use this feed for their ruminants and other herbivores they kept domestically and during extensive Ruminant Farming and other herbivores obtain food via grazing on pastures where grasses may be naturally as rangelands or artificially like kikuyu grass, elephant grasses, *Desmodium* and other legumes like *Calliandra* species.

But it is not easy to know how much quantity needed to satisfy animal and because some grasses are hydrated thus in this class of feeding, animals fail to intake water for water lead to decline of farm production due to improper feeding but here all animals considered as herbivores totally no selection of what animals need to graze because they cut and carry different varieties of grasses to make sure that animals by itself graze the palatable ones and none palatable remained as wastes will become manure will be used in agriculture. There are in this category of feeding animals are at risk for plant poisoning with toxic plant like the Bracken fern can induce lower nephron pathological condition in Ruminants.

Processed feed with concentrate

Those classes of Animal's feed manufactured by registered and certified factories or from registered and licensed importer and they distribute the processed food to their stocks or agents located in different farming community in order to supply at customer's levels. This is class of animals feeding where poultry farmers and pig farmers are usually take feed for their flocks or piggeries because those commercial feeds with standard quantity and consisting balanced diet to induce production because it contains all ingredients such are: Energy, protein, vitamin and minerals. In Rwanda sources of Energy feed the factories used to process animal feed is from only carbohydrates such as maize bran and maize grains is commonly used as sources of carbohydrates in all animals feed factories to get energy feed as ingredients. The commonly sources of proteins is Soya meals is needed at high quantity in all factories of animals feed to process food with calculated quantity of proteins. About sources of vitamin and anti-oxidants the factories import the premix as final products to be used as sources of vitamin in their feed. About Minerals and preservatives the factories use Bones meals and export Coquilles meals as sources of calcium from Tanzania in order to process feed with minerals to prevent insufficient of minerals lead to metabolic diseases, also their use lime as preservation against aflatoxins in stocks. Recall that this highest costed animal feed in Rwanda.

Miscellaneous feedings in Rwanda

In other hand the pure bran from maize and rice is used by farmers with insufficient capital to feed concentrated feed. About feed additives in Rwanda is still undeveloped because no importer exists here to import those products and those products are needed according to my extension services in different farming community where I have been observed that some farm use uninspected feed and fail to get expected production there for it will be better for me to see the possible feed additives and I am interested to help any Importer during distribution in different farming community of Rwanda, this is only methods of feeding will reduce the use of antimicrobials in misusing manner due to those feed additives can be used in preventive measures of some metabolic diseases and is the good way to sustain immunity of animals. In other sides there are some water drink additives especially those rich in minerals and vitamins to improve health fitness and productivities.

About Hay and Silage are used by excellent cattle farmers with enough developed in infrastructure at their farms like chopper machine and larger stock for those feed where in Silage in Rwanda used by crushing whole maize plants and keeping final products in specific place for future use but Hay in Rwanda coming from the taking the rice plants after its harvesting season and keeping them in specific house with air condition to dry those plant without exposing them to the sun light and those feed will be used during dry climate season where the

green grasses are insufficient. About pellets are fish processed feed by animal's feed factories to improve aquatic production. About Pets feeding only Royal canine is brand naming of dry food of the pets and imported in Rwanda to supply the owners near Kigali but in other province where those pets food not exist, the owners need milk and meat to feed their pet.

Clinical cases associated with improper feeding

According to my Veterinary intervention in different farming community there are different scenarios I have been faced with which are related to the malnutrition and poor quality of Animal's feed. Those Clinical cases including: Osteoporosis in layers due to lacking of enough calcium in bloodstream, Poor growth condition for all species due to improper feeding, lack of productivities for all species, metabolic diseases in dairy cattle, Cannibalism and eggs eating for layers, Recumbencies in different species due to lack of minerals in diet and Reproductive disorders associated with hormonal imbalance. Recall that all cases can be prevented via proper feed management and early consultant by Veterinarians at farm level. But if cases occurred it is better to be emergency to reverse case early.

Animal's feeds factories in Rwanda

In Rwanda we have almost four animal's feed factories such are: Zamura Feed Ltd, Gorilla Feed Ltd, Rische Feed Ltd and Tunga Feed Ltd. Those factories placed in districts of Musanze of Northern province, Rwamagana and Bugesera both are in Eastern province of Rwanda, those factories were licensed and certified by national standardization board and have their distributors in different farming community to give their customers decentralization. All those factories process feed according to the species and it's age categories or production type For examples: About poultry feed including for Broiler feed, Layer feed, Broiler feeds and each age categories have it's own type of feeds. About Cattle feeding the factory produces two categories of feeds based on production type such as Feed for dairy cow and for Beef cow. About pig feeding the factory produces feed based on the ages where they have Feed for piglets, weaners and for adults and the farmers need to identify and record the information of their farms in order to use the feed related to their species, ages and production.

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