



AICCRA

Accelerating Impacts of CGIAR
Climate Research for Africa



**Media Training workshop on
Livestock Feed and Forage
Innovation**

Postharvest feed resource handling and utilization

Melkamu Bezabih|7-8 June 2022|Nexus hotel- Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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Introduction

- Feed – the main input in livestock production
- Accounts 40-70% of the total cost of production
- Feed resources limited; and prices increasing
- Traditional feeding practices often incur large postharvest feed losses

Harvest and postharvest loses

- Feed loses start at harvest:
 - Leaf shattering at harvest
 - Overmatured harvest
 - lose of quality and quantity
- Feed loses during preservation practices
 - Hay; Silages

Cont.

- Feed loses during storage
 - Lack of proper feed shed;
- Feed wastage during feeding
 - Feeding on the ground
 - Lack of proper feeding troughs
 - Significant wastage while feeding
- Unbalanced rations



Farmers crop residue storage practices with some good experiences



Economic and health implications

- Increased feeding costs
- Increased gap between feed demand and supply at household level
- Fungal contaminations, with human and animal health impacts
- Labor and gender issues

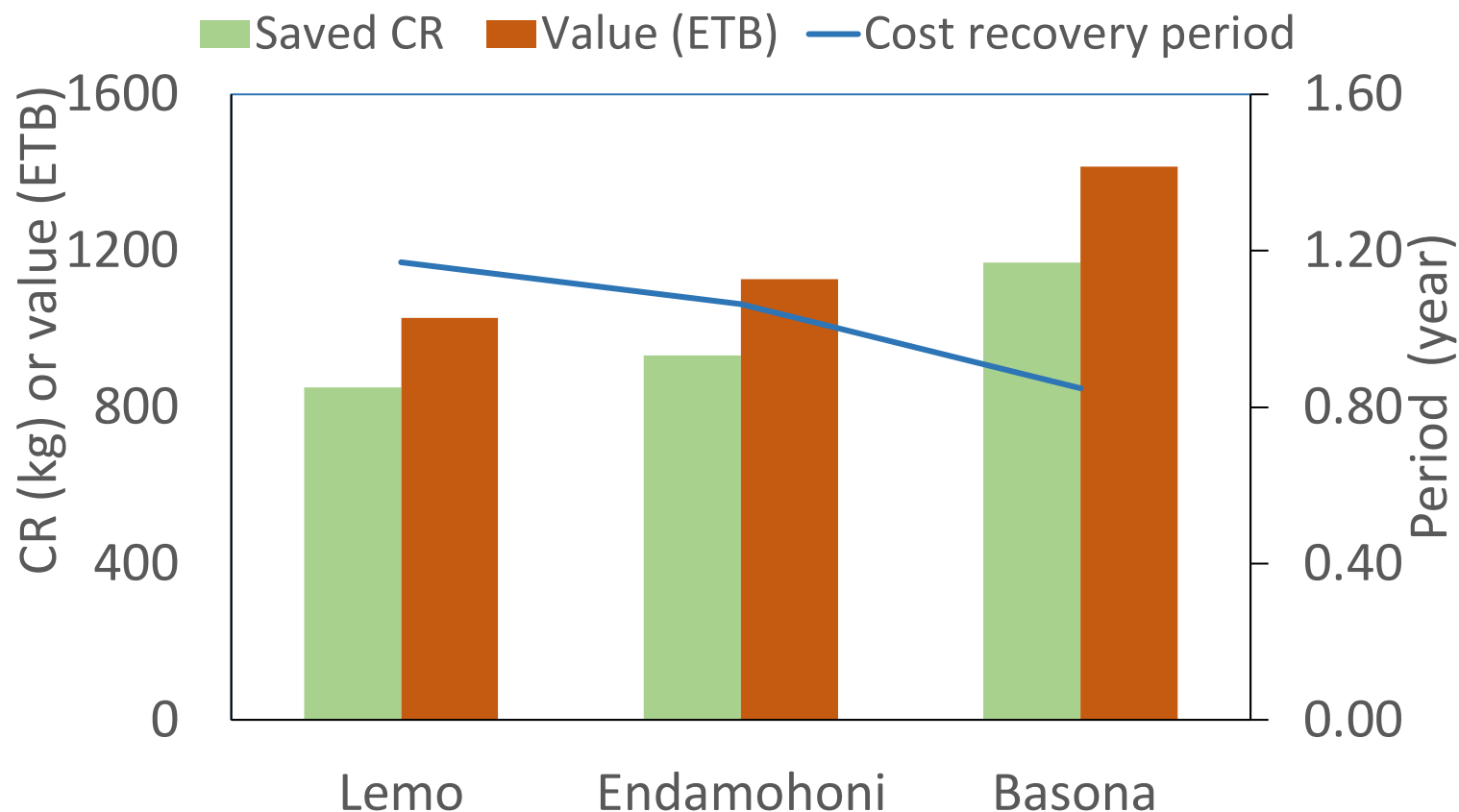
Practical solutions

- **Improved feeding troughs**

- Minimizes feed wastage
- Improves feed intake
- Eases animal handling,
and cleaning barns



Costs of feed trough construction can be recovered within one year



- **Improved sheds**

- Raised platform
- Roof cover

- Minimize contamination and quality loss
- Use of improved feed stores and feeding troughs saves **30-50%** of feed
- reduce 10-20% of labor demand for feeding



- Other good practices
 - Chopping and mixing before feeding
 - Moistening dried residues with salt solution
 - Preservation of excess feeds following recommended procedures
 - Harvesting crops before losing quality

Takeaway message

- Crop residues constitute about half of the diet of ruminants in the Ethiopian highlands
- Feed sheds and feeding troughs play an important role to optimally use such dried
- In terms of cost, it is worth investing