An Analysis of Dissemination of Livestock Feed Technology: The Case of Bihar in Eastern India

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Introduction

- Dairy farming in Bihar is a major source of income for small and marginal farmers.
- There are constraints to effective transformation of dairy production from a subsistence-oriented to a profitable commercial venture.
- High cost of commercial feed along with low quality of available feed hinders animal productivity and limits economic returns from dairy production.
- ILRI’s laboratory analysis indicates quality limitations especially in metabolizable energy and digestibility of available feed resources.
- To increase availability of quality feed, ILRI has formulated a balanced concentrate feed based on locally available ingredients/resources in 2011-12.
- With support from the Cereal Systems Initiative for South Asia (CSISA) project and in collaboration with national partners, a series of training and demonstration activities was implemented to disseminate this feed technology in CSISA-Bihar hub sites.
- This study presents the results from the analysis of data on adoption and dissemination of this feed technology.

Materials and methods

- Two stage sampling method (stratified and random) was followed to select the 360 farm households in two blocks of Smastipur, Bihar.
- Out of 360 surveyed households, 159 participated in training or trials while the others did not.
- Data were collected using structured questionnaires and processed using SurveyBe software.
- Descriptive statistical analysis was used to analyze the survey data.

Results

The results indicate that the rate of adoption of ILRI-CSISA feed technology is low

Conclusion

- 20% of farmers who have participated in training are using the ILRI-CSISA promoted feed compared to 6% of the non-participants.
- Among non-participant sample farmers, 28% have heard about ILRI-CSISA promoted feed.
- Neighbors are main source of information about the technology among farmers who did not participate in training, followed by CSISA project field staff.
- Participant farmers have shared the information on how to prepare the ILRI-CSISA promoted feed to more than 1200 farmers.
- Knowledge of most of farmers on concentrate feed has improved after the training.
- Improving awareness of this feed technology through training and demonstration activities will facilitate increased adoption among dairy farmers in Bihar.

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