POVERTY REDUCTION, LIVELIHOODS & JOBS

Mobile Feed formulation app for smallholder chicken production systems

- Feed accounts for 65-70% of the cost of production.
- Least cost feeds with good quality can best be formulated using feed formulation software that employs linear programing.
- Such feed formulation software is only available for commercial feed producers with huge investment.
- They are usually expensive and not accessible by smallholder farmers.
- Mobile feed Apps that make use of locally available feed ingredients are needed.

Context

- Tropically adapted and better performing chicken breeds require better quality feed to meet their egg and meat production potential.
- Farmers, however, are often unable to purchase commercial standard feed because of high prices and limited availability.
- It is, therefore, important to source and formulate feed through locally available feed resources.
- The mobile feed formulation app enables farmers, extension workers and feed producers to formulate feed using locally available ingredients.

Our innovative approach

- We use scientific data to match the requirements of chickens at different stages with the nutrition composition of locally available feed ingredients.
- We considered the safe minimum/maximum levels of nutrients to keep chickens safe and healthy and economic feasibility of rations.
- We expanded the app to adapt to the existing condition of chickens.

Outcomes

- The app has been translated from English into local languages in Ethiopia, Tanzania and Nigeria.
- The app is now available for download by by users from mobile app stores.
- Farmers who participated in the African Genetic Gains (ACGG) platform are already using the app.

Future steps

- The app will be introduced widely to farmers through poultry platforms or poultry forums organized by the ACGG project.
- The app will be used by small-scale feed producers to formulate rations in villages where ACGG has been implemented and beyond.

Partners

ACGG teams in Ethiopia, Nigeria and Tanzania

The CGIAR Research Program on Livestock thanks all donors & organizations which globally support its work through their contributions to the CGIAR Trust Fund. cgiar.org/funders

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