

Animal feeding and fodder conservation training program for Women in New Halfa - Kassala state

This program was conducted under the auspices of the following organisations:

- APRC (Animal Production Research Centre).
- PENHA (Pastoral and Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa)
- PEAKS (Pastoralist Environment Association in Kassala State).
- PLAN Sudan of EU-Kassala State



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Introduction:

Kassala State lies in the semi-desert area of Eastern Sudan where rain is scarce (only two months a year with less than 300 ml) with the dry season extending for many months. Kassala State covers about 42,282 sq km with an animal wealth of six million (cattle, sheep, goats and camels) but with very variable animal feed resources. The main animal feed resources in this state are natural pasture followed by irrigated green fodders, forests and agricultural and agro-industrial products. Natural pasture covers about 6 million Fadden which approximately represent 35% of the state's area and produces 70% of total animal feed. Women in Kassala state especially in the villages take care of small ruminants and sometimes one or two cattle and a donkey. Such responsibilities make women particularly interested in fodder production.

New Halfa locality is one of the 11 localities of Kassala State. New Halfa locality lies in the Western part of Kassala State. Natural pasture covers about 60% of New Halfa locality and the natural plants are available only during the rainy season (2-3 months a year) with a subsequent reduction following the rainy season. During dry season the feed scarcity leads pastoralists and livestock holders to move south in search of fodder and water for their animals or to use other animal feed resources.

The training programs of animal feeding and fodder conservation are one of the back bones of PEAKS. It has executed this program in Kassala State several times. Fortunately women have been and still are given special attention and animal fodder production programs have been conducted for them. The first one was conducted in Kassala City, followed by another one in Khashm El Girba town and lastly this training program was held in New Halfa town.

The main objectives of these training programs are:

- Exploring the indigenous knowledge of the women about animal fodder and combining this with scientific knowledge and so ending with optimal knowledge. Research has shown that the participation of the end beneficiaries in planning, execution and monitoring programs guarantees success and sustainability.
- Introduction of some modern and simple technologies for feed preparation and preservation.

Training site:

Training was done in a hall of the Teachers' Union of Basic Education Centre of New Halfa locality in New Halfa town. The position of New Halfa in relation to Kassala and Khartoum can be seen in the map below.

Training period:

The training period extend for 5 days from 23- 27 of October 2011. The training consist of four lectures and four practicals, one field visit to the veterinary clinic and another visit to New Halfa animal feed processing factory in New Halfa town.



From www.findlatitudeandlongitude.com



Lecture: Animal feed resources



Lecture on animal feed resources



Animal feed Resources (Agricultural and agroindustrial-byproducts)



Practical: the concept of weighing and demonstrating the usefulness of using balances in animal fodders



Drying of green fodder (Barseem) under shade as a preservation method



Practical: the use of manual choppers to chop sorghum stover



Practical: the use of manual choppers to chop barseem hay (*Medicago sativa*)



Practical: crushed groundnut cake and wheat bran



Practical: crushed sorghum cereals (Fetarita)



Practical: Weighing ration ingredients using balance



Practical: Mixing ration ingredients

(sorghum, wheat bran, groundnut cake, lime stone and table salt)



Practical: Filling of mixed ration into plastic sacs



A field visit to the veterinary clinic in Halfa town



A field visit to the veterinary clinic in Halfa town - Molass-feed processing unit



A field visit to the Animal-feeds Processing Factory in Halfa town

Target groups:

30 women from different villages of Nahr Atbara locality- Kassala State were summarized as followed,

No.	Village	Trainees
1.	El Sheibik	3
2.	Um El Gura	5
3.	Al Ailo	5
4.	Al Gined	4
5.	3 Arab	1
6.	4 Arab	2
7.	5 Arab	3
8.	6 Arab	3
9.	7 Arab	3
10	8 Arab	1
	Total	30

Those women were trained on modern methods for feeding animals and better utilization of available animal feed resources by using some simple technologies suitable for such rural areas.

Attendance and follow up:

Participants attended the training regularly with an attendance of 97,3 % throughout the training period. Furthermore participants showed eager to know and enrich the training by negotiation and exchange information. Women also share in practices like chopping and formation of concentrate ration.

The staff for the training programme

1. Dr. Nuha Hamed Talib, the main trainer from APRC.
2. Rasha Omer Ibrahim, assistant from APRC.
3. Osama El Zubeir Hadi Allah, lecturer from the pasture and fodder administration-Kassala state.
4. Mohammed Ali, PEAKS secretary, facilitator and administrator.

Out puts:

- Women were trained to use available animal feed resources in Kassala state.
- Better utilization of these feed resources through chopping or drying of green forages under shade.

Lastly our thanks and gratitude is due to the training staff, trainees, PEAKS and people of New Halfa for success of this training.

Furthermore a sound of thanks should go to Plan Sudan of EU for funding and moral support.



The handy craft fair in the closing day

Thank you all