

Case 17: N A M I B I A

Bush feed project

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Bush-feed project is designed to process woody fibre, leaves and fruits into livestock feed. Namibia has been experiencing severe drought for many consecutive years. In many areas bush are taking over the grass. Some farmers have developed a mechanism to use palatable bush/ tree species as feeds for livestock and game. Idea has been adopted by several farmers especially those located in bush encroached areas. African wilddog community forest started in 2016 to process animal feed from various bush species. Forest management body together with Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, selected farmers to carry out research trials for livestock feeding with bush-feed. The research is not yet completed but preliminary result shows that animals are responding well. Marketing of product still rely on local farmers who knows the bush-feed. Ministry and other stakeholders are helping them to market the product at national level and beyond.

Implementing Organization	Directorate of Forestry Add : P/Bag 13184 Email : joseph.hailwa@mawf.gov.na	WEB URL : http://209.88.21.83/web/forestry
Funding Source	Government of Republic of Namibia	
Implementing Period	02/2016 – 02/2019	
Project site	Communal and commercial areas	

Key Words: Making bush-feed from encroacher bushes



Bush feed are spread over the plastic sheets for drying about 10 hours, before packaging.



Set of bush-feed making machine used in at African wild-dog community forest. It makes about five tons per day.

Background of the Project

Namibia is experiencing severe droughts, because of poor rain fall. Many farmers are facing problem with animal feeds especially during dry period. They have been experiencing livestock loss, due to lack grass. Converting palatable species into animal feed has been tested and proved viable by few commercial farmers in the country. Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry in collaboration with Sustainable Namibia Forested land project (NAFOLA) are piloting animal feed production at African wilddog community forest. The area is described as heavily infested by bush encroacher species dominated by *Acacia melifera*. Community forest management body (FMB) identified activities that they would do and generate income. Bush feed was identified as first priority and submitted a request for be assistance with machine to process those discarded wood materials into bush feed, charcoal, droppers and firewood. The machine set was procured at value of N\$ 600,000.00 in August 2016. Apart for the machine, forest management body were also trained and supported with other materials such as bags and additives. On farm trials were established with selected farmers to test how animal respond when they feed on bush-feeds. The research result responded very well in all the livestock trials especially where some additive has been added to improve the taste and nutrients value. After the feeds processed farmers can feed animal while directly or dried for storage. Marketing of bush feed still not well publicise, Ministry and other stakeholders are busy helping to develop market strategy. Local farmers are willing to buy the bush-feed preparing for dry season. The project is designed to add value and make additional income to farmers. Forest Management Body (FMB) enters into agreement with farmers to de-bush unwanted bush at no cost, but farmer may request to buy the feed. Farmers are encourages to manage the coppices' for sustainability.

Overall Goal and Objectives of the Project

- ✓ Control bush encroachment at the same time adding value to discarded wood materials.
- ✓ Generate income that contribute livelihood improvement.
- ✓ Create alternative source of animal feed.

Challenges and limitations of good practice implementation

Bush feed is new product and some farmers reluctant to buy.

Major Activities

- ✓ Application of forest permits
- ✓ forest inventory
- ✓ Training for harvesters
- ✓ Packing and marketing

Direct Outputs from the Project

- ✓ Local people livelihood improved, employment, earn additional income.

Indirect Impact of the Project

- ✓ Adding value to encroacher bush.

- ✓ Increase productivity of farmland by regulating grass ratio over bush.
- ✓ Additional income to the farmers.
- ✓ Encourage farmers to maintain and manage regeneration for future.

Intervention of Central/Local Government and other stakeholders

Facilitate the regulations and compliance of bush-feed production conditions. Coordinate the communications within farmer unions, suppliers and traders. Issuing forest permit and monitoring bush-feed production operations. Provide technical and advisory service to producers. To monitor and arbitrate labour conflicts.

Way Forward

Supporting farmers with technical and relevant training. Government to strictly monitor the adherence and compliances of harvesters to avoid deforestation.

Reference Documents/Materials

Community forests integrated management plans; <http://209.88.21.83/web/forestry>

Resource Persons

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Feeding bush branches into machine. Only fresh part of woody leaves and pods feed into machine, all dead materials are removed to avoid mixing with fresh.

