E-CVPP: Utilization of cassava as alternate animal feed

Introduction

The E-CVPP is a Farm Concern International - (FCI) project in Kenya and Tanzania, funded by Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa - (AGRA), focusing on smallholder commercialization and market development for cassava and sweet potatoes with the aim of facilitating trade.

This is an enhancement of the previous Cassava Village Processing Project -(CVPP: 2010-2013), funded under AGRA’s Market Access programme, that ended in February 2013. The project provided a good foundation to build a bigger initiative that would lead to a dynamic and transformational project on trade facilitation for the two value chains. This is done by sustainably responding to the barriers of cassava and sweet potato commercialization and market linkages.

The E-CVPP is therefore, systematically designed to optimize and deepen participation of 75,000 smallholder farmers in Kenya and Tanzania for the sweet potato and cassava value chains for enhanced livelihoods through trade in the seven sites.

Objectives

The E-CVPP has three specific objectives namely;

Specific Objective 1: To strengthen the capacity and efficiency of farmer organizations to inclusively produce and market collectively through commercial villages;

Specific Objective 2: Promote use of agronomic best practices and quality inputs for increased market-led cassava and sweet potatoes production;

Specific Objective 3: To link cassava and sweet potato smallholder farmers to markets.

CVPP Achievements (2010 - 2013)

• Recruiting 54,095 farmer beneficiaries into the project.
• Developing business partnerships with 40 Wholesale cassava buyers, 5 animal feed companies and 15 cassava processors.
• Facilitating sale income worth USD 41,641,960.25 from assorted cassava products.
• The awareness creation on the adoption of Good Agricultural Practices and use of superior cassava varieties increased cassava yields from 3MT to 9MT per acre.
• Establishment of 250 Village based seed multipliers and linking them to 214 Commercial Villages to address seed system challenge.
• Facilitated cyanide analysis study for 18 cassava varieties grown by farmers and trained Commercial Village members on cyanide management that would reduce its levels to be tolerable for safe home consumption.
Opportunities in the Animal Feeds Sector

The animal feeds sector in Kenya relies on maize as its primary source of energy in feeds manufacturing for all livestock, putting it into direct conflict with the human consumption.

Over time, maize supply has become an unreliable supply due to high cost, changing climate and disease outbreak especially in the North Rift, Kenya’s grain basket. In the current harvesting season, the country is experiencing a shortfall of maize by 33.4%, with an expected production of 28.9 million bags, compared to a demand of 43.4 million bags (Tegemeo Institute- Business Daily News 27th October edition). All these factors are increasing the cost of maize, resulting in very high prices of animal feeds.

Research on possible substitute sources of animal feeds identified cassava as a cost effective energy source that has close characteristics to maize. Cassava comprises of approximately 80% carbohydrates, making it a utilizable substitute for maize in the animal feed industry. Cassava has been widely used in animal feeds in other countries such as Thailand, China, Ghana and India; hence, its diversified utilization can be a catalyst for revolution in the Kenyan animal feeds sector.

E-CVPP Project Partners

The project works closely with Ministries of Agriculture, National Research Organizations, e.g. Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization - (KALRO) in Kenya and Hort-Tegeru in Tanzania. The project is also collaborating with the private sector especially processors, traditional wholesale informal buyers, development organizations, Business Development Service providers - (BDS) and consultants.

E-CVPP is expected to facilitate production of up to 1.1 million MT of cassava in three years by 75,000 farmers in Kenya (Kilifi, Makueni, Mtwapa, Mwala, Busia) and Tanzania (Kibaha & Meru), and also 23,000 MT of sweet potatoes.