An Assessment of Livestock Technology Packaging and Dissemination in Rukungiri District

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Citation: Musinguzi, S. P. (2012). An assessment of livestock technology packaging and dissemination in Rukungiri District (Unpublished master's thesis). Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda

Abstract

The study was motivated by the fact that despite availability of technologies capable of solving farmers' constraints adoption of relevant technology has been insufficient to address the constraints. This research set out to examine prospects of livestock technology in enhancing farm productivity, through assessing the livestock technology packaging and dissemination methods. Both qualitative and quantitative methods using PRA techniques and a questionnaire respectively were used. One hundred questionnaires were administered. The study revealed the common livestock species raised in the study area were goats (32%), cattle (39%), pigs (16%) and chicken (6%). Technology adoption emphasized de-worming (37%), acaricide use (22%), pasture improvement (20%) and farm structures (10%). Livestock production was particularly constrained by limited grazing area (52%), livestock diseases (17%) poor breeds (11%), and lack of dry season feeds (7%). Farmer exchange visits (45%) and trainings (32%) were the most effective technology dissemination approaches. Improved feeds and breeds arehence the key technology needs for livestock. It was noted that whereas there exists relevant technologies that can address farmers' constraints there is general lack of information about their existence. It was recommended that technology promotion be refocused to address needs particularly lack of improved feeds and breeds. These should be implemented through farmer training, exchange visits supplemented by appropriate radio messages.

Key Words: Livestock Technology packaging, Dissemination, Rukungiri District