



Influencing factors for adoption of forage technologies in smallholder dairy systems in Lushoto, Tanzania

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Problem

- lack of sufficient quantity and quality of livestock feed on a consistent basis is cited as a major constraint faced by dairy farmers in East Africa, especially during the dry season.

→ new improved forage technologies often fail to be adopted for a variety of reasons.....

- Within the frame of a BMZ/GIZ sponsored project we focus on exploring the adoption potential of these forage technologies:

→ in two villages in North-Eastern Tanzania (Lushoto).

Specific objectives and methods

- Using semi-structured qualitative explorative interviews, structured field observations, and an extensive literature review, the study unveils:

- triggering (driving),
- sustaining, and
- inhibiting forces, towards further adaptation and adoption of these technologies from a farmer's perspective.

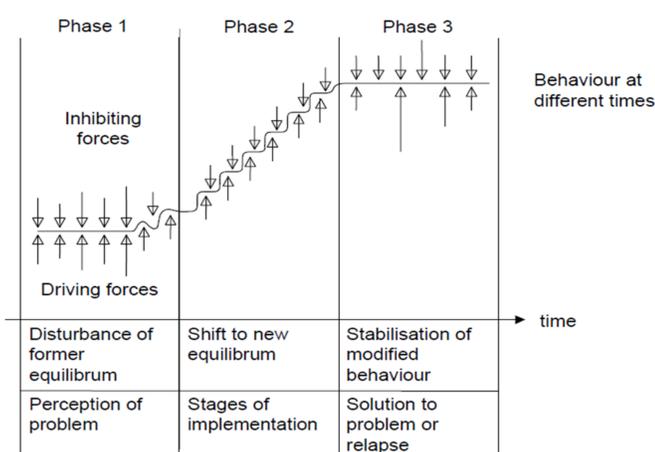


Determinants of the Adoption of Forage Technologies - findings from literature survey

- Risk aversion of farmers (new technologies are questioned),
- Farm size not fitting to new technologies,
- Extreme price fluctuations,
- Poor access to markets (transportation, cooling facilities, inputs),
- Social networks (rural-urban ties),
- Legal aspects: taxes and subsidies,
- Gender and age.

Conceptual basis

- Theory of Behaviour Modification (Hruschka, 1994).



Findings from survey

Triggering factors for adopting improved forages

- ✓ shortage of feed and soil conservation problems,
- ✓ expected economic advantages were not as dominant in the farmers' responses.

Sustaining factors for maintaining after adoption

- ✓ year round availability of fodder after adoption,
- ✓ increased fodder demand (due to higher livestock numbers),
- ✓ accumulated benefits (e.g. increased animal numbers and forage yields).

Conclusions

- The change in the importance of triggering (esp. land conservation) and
- sustaining factors (e.g. constant availability of fodder) is an important lesson learnt from this survey.
- From farmers perspective, further up-scaling needs now more support in:
 - animal breeding,
 - provision of sufficient planting materials and,
 - the expansion of the programme to other farmers beyond the innovation platform.

Outlook

first results from the farmers' perspective will be further triangulated by findings from a multi-stakeholder workshop using a qualitative participatory expert-based assessment approach with other stakeholders:

- Farmers, extension officers, scientists