

**STATUS OF LIVESTOCK FEEDS REPRESENTING URBAN,
VILLAGE AND REMOTE AREA OF BATTICALOA REGION.**

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BY

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ABSTRACT

Feed is the one of the most significant factor to determine the livestock production. The availability of feeds depends on the climatic and environmental condition. To maximize the utilization of existing feed and feed resources, farmers should know about the available feed in their locations.

In this context a study was undertaken to determine the availability of feed and their distribution in urban, village and remote areas of Batticaloa district during the period from February 2014 to June 2014. Eravur, Vantharumoolai and Karadiyanaru were selected for urban, village and remote areas respectively. Fifty farmers were selected from location and a total of 150 farmers were used to gather information. Stratified random sampling method was applied to the survey and data were analysed using descriptive statistics. Aspects of socio economic features of farmers, Livestock management practices, feed information such as recent available feeds, feed purchasing rate and constrains regarding feed in the study areas were the major parameters considered in the study.

The result of the study revealed that about 60% of farmers had 10 years of experience in farming, which is sufficient for better management and care; for more livestock production. Majority of the farmers in urban area were small holders (58%) but Majority of village and remote area farmers were medium holders. only 6% farmers were practicing intensive farming system only in the village area, Most of the farmers (average 73.34%) in whole study area were practicing extensive and semi intensive rearing system. Most of the farmers reported that major constraints (82%) in farm was high cost for concentrate feeds followed by low price for milk production, lack of grasses and grazing land, lack of credit facilities, and drought due to lack of water.

Paddy straw, rice bran, fodder (Gliricidia, Ipil Ipil), kitchen wastes, crop residue were major available feed in whole study area. Paddy straw was used by more than 70% of the farmers in each study area.

Kitchen wastes were used by farmers regularly, such as coconut scrap, vegetable wastes, fish wastes, meat wastes, which are major component of kitchen wastes as a livestock feed. Among the milling by products rice bran mostly used by farmers in each study area. The price of straw and rice bran were Rs 2500 per bundle (four wheel tractor load) and Rs 25 per kg respectively.

To conclude, the conducive climatic conditions and paddy cultivation in the region are the acceptable merits to the feed industry. Lack of pasture and fodder production, increasing cost for concentrate feeds, less adoption of improved management practices and lack of knowledge about conserved feed material preparation are the major limitations prevailing in the study area. Taking necessary remedies to uplift the technology involved in feed production and providing and educating the farmers the merits of incorporating improved management practices will give a boost to the livestock production.

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