

Livestock Feed: Process Case Study

Using invasive plants for animal feed in Sudan

Over the past thirty years, Kassala State in eastern Sudan has experienced a range of humanitarian emergencies, including drought and food insecurity, flooding and wildfires, complex emergencies associated with conflict, forced displacements, and refugee crises. The economy of Kassala is based on agriculture; this includes both rainfed and irrigated cultivation as well as pastoralist livestock production that involves seasonal movements across the state. Drought contributed to a livestock fodder gap in the late dry season, and the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS) implemented an approach that produced dry season fodder from an invasive rangeland plant called *Prosopis* (mesquite). The dual aim was to support livestock while also contributing to *Prosopis* control.

The *Prosopis* tree produces pods, and these were collected. SRCS installed a grinding machine for processing the pods and developed guidelines for *Prosopis* management in the eastern Atbara River region. There was dense coverage of the plant in both the main agricultural land and in the adjacent forest areas. Ground pods were a welcome feed intervention by the recipients. In other countries, including Kenya and Ethiopia, ground *Prosopis* pods were also fed to animals, particularly goats, as a supplemental feed.

Source: Gebru, G., Yousif, H., Mohamed, A., Negesse, B. and Young, H. (2013) Livestock, Livelihoods, and Disaster Response, Part Two: Three Case Studies of Livestock Emergency Programmes in Sudan, and Lessons Learned, Feinstein International Center, Tufts University, Medford, MA. <https://fic.tufts.edu/publication-item/livestock-livelihoods-and-disaster-response-part-two-2/>