



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/>

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- ▶ For more information see the Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards Handbook at livestock-emergency.net

