

**FODDER INNOVATION PROJECT TWO (FIP II)
CONTRIBUTES TO INCREASED FODDER
AVAILABILITY IN NORTHERN NIGERIA.**

BY:

Ilyasu A. Ahmed
FIP II Coordinator
Dambatta and Makoda sites
Kano State – Nigeria.
+2348065532319.

Dambatta and Makoda Local Government Areas are approximately 50 to 60 KM North of Kano Metropolitan in Northern Nigeria. The two areas experience low rainfall lasting for 3 to 4 Months and a long dry season of 8 Months. Most of the farmers are poor Crop-Livestock farmers. The major crops cultivated during wet season include Sorghum, Maize, Pearl Millet, Cowpea, Groundnut and sesame. Both Local Governments have large population of livestock, particularly Cattle, Sheep and Goats. These animals mostly depend on crop residues, bush forage, grazing reserves and stock routes for fulfilling the fodder needs. Due to the limited availability of grazing reserves, stock routes or forests the farmers resort to seasonal migration with their animals to Southern Nigeria in search of fodder and water. The few grazing reserves and stock routes that exist were encroached by alien pastoralists. This led to occasional severe conflict between the encroachers and the local crop farmers. There is suspicion that some Traditional Rulers and Local Authorities secretly and illegally distribute land from the reserve to farmers in return for money. A number of actors play critical roles in the system in project areas. These include as the Local Governments, the Extension Agents, The Fulanis Associations (e.g. MACBAN, FULDAN), Agric Bank, Fodder Marketers, Livestock Marketers, Agro dealers, Traditional Rulers, Research Institutes, Crop and Crop/Livestock Farmers.

However, there was limited interaction amongst these actors as there was no agency or actor which facilitates linkages between them. There was no tradition of all the actors meeting and

discussing common problems to jointly find solutions. The attitudes, habits and practices of the actors contributed to these state. The KNARDA Extension Agents, consider themselves more knowledgeable and capable than Local Government Extension Agents, MACBAN Considered itself as senior and more recognised by Government than FULDAN.

After FIP II was initiated in Dambatta and Makoda various Fodder and Network related activities were facilitated by the Innovation Coordinator in order to create nodes that connect all the actors and to strengthen the network to address the fodder challenges. This was done through a series of Multi-Stakeholders meetings, Workshops, Seminars, and Visits. This motivated the actors to take up activities to solve problems related to fodder scarcity. A bout eight (8) actors came together and discussed how to recover MAHUWA encroached Communal grazing reserve in Makoda Local Government Area. They complained to the newly turbaned district head, organised meeting with the Traditional Rulers and Local Authorities. As a result the MAHUWA grazing reserve was reclaimed and handed over to the crop/livestock farmers. During the last wet season, most Cattle from Dambatta, Makoda and Kunchi Local Government Areas grazed in this poorly developed reserve. It is expected that this will reduce the seasonal migration of animals from North to the South. Establishment of the network contributed to this development. In addition, the fodder innovation project intervention will assist the network members to develop the grazing reserve to maximise the benefit of improved grazing.