

Forages - taking stock and identifying research needs



Key details

Location

Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam

Duration

Start Jun 2019

End Dec 2020

Budget

AUD 250,000

Commissioned organisation

The University of Queensland

Partners

Warrawilla Pty Ltd

Project Leader

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Program

Livestock Systems

Project code

LS/2018/186

production to provide ACIAR and country governments recommendations for future investments in forage research and development.

ACIAR has supported livestock research programs in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam to develop more productive, profitable and sustainable livestock systems over many years. A focus on smallholder producers has led to the awareness of specific constraints in the development of this sector resulting in the promotion of forage development as a crucial component of livestock development programs.

The potential of forages has been widely recognised and forage development is now included as a component of almost every livestock development project in the region. However, despite encouraging results, the uptake and spread of forages has been slow. There are numerous examples where some farmers have developed profitable forage-based cattle fattening systems in a project context. These farmers generally continued the practices after the end of projects but there has been limited spread to other farmers without support by a livestock project or government program. There are also many examples where many farmers have adopted small areas of forages as part of livestock projects. These small forage areas have led to considerable time savings for farmers, which are highly appreciated, but only few farmers have then developed this new feed source further into an income-generating farm enterprise.

Overview

This project aimed to identify critical factors that promote or impede demand-driven uptake of forages by smallholders involved in cattle

This project assessed the status of forage development and identify critical factors that inhibit demand-driven uptake of forages. This is with a view to providing guidance for future forage development and assessing how research can contribute to unlocking the potential of forages.

Project outcomes

- Identified critical factors contributing to the success and failure of forage development programs in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam.
- Systemised identified critical factors of success in a conceptual framework and refined this framework through selected case studies to provide decision support for future forage R&D investments.
- Formulated, verified and communicated strategies for effective forage R&D to ACIAR, partner governments, and the wider livestock R&D community.



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