

Prospects of Pasture Production: The Pastoralists Perspectives

Presented at the 2-Day Workshop on
Commercial Pasture Production as a Tool
for National Livestock Development Held at
the CDA Conference Hall, Bayero University,
Kano, 4th – 5th May 2017

Saleh B. Momale

Centre for Dryland Agriculture, Bayero University, Kano

Sbmomale.cda@buk.edu.ng; +234 (0)803 694 6063

Introduction

- Pastoralists are the major ruminant livestock producers in Nigeria – some 15 to 20 million people, managing some 16million cows.
- They are widely distributed in all parts of Nigeria – roaming the savannas and forests mainly in search of pasture and water – the pasture in the form of natural grasses.
- And these natural grasses are increasingly becoming inadequate due to expanding croplands and increasing range degradation. Today, there is acute scarcity of grasses – both nutritious and even the non-nutritious grasses.

What happens in the absence Natural Grasses for the Cows?

- Declining productivity of the animal – age at first calving, milk yield, calving interval, carcass weight
- Increasing conflicts – quest to access more resources (land), quest to migrate to “areas with better feeds”, increased damage to crops, etc.
- Rising poverty and loss of livelihoods – mostly for pastoralists leading to loss of employment, social cohesion, social values, etc.
- Rising criminality – in the absence of descent livelihoods and sound family upbringing, etc.

