



Village Livestock Promoter advising farmers on how to balance nutrients in the diet of their animals. Photo ILRI/Nils Teufel

The challenge

- The low quality of animal diets is constraining dairy productivity.
- Preparation of on-farm **Total Mixed Ration (TMR)** with the support of a **digital nutrient balancing app** would improve diet quality and dry matter intake, leading to improved productivity.
- This innovation is being piloted in the CGIAR Sustainable Animal Productivity for Livelihoods, Income, Nutrition and Gender inclusion (SAPLING) initiative in Nepal.

Our innovative approach

- Our innovative approach consists of **enhancing the overall diet quality and intake for animals**, as opposed to the conventional practice of improving individual diet components in isolation.
- Experience shows that **focusing solely on a single issue is often ineffective**. We are combining the core innovation – a nutrient balancing app – with adoption enablers that include farmer training and establishing connections with input (concentrate) and service (chopping) providers.



INITIATIVE ON
Sustainable Animal
Productivity

Packaging core innovation with enablers of adoption improves diet quality and productivity of dairy animals in Nepal

- Single issue focus tend not to work.
- Technologies are exciting but require an enabling environment to scale.
- A nutrient balancing application along with awareness creation and linking of input/service providers helps farmers to improve diet quality and hence productivity of dairy animals.



A farmer feeds her goats. Photo ILRI/Nils Teufel

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Outcomes

- Farmers are reporting **increased milk productivity** of half liter to one liter per animal per day, with some citing a reduction in feed cost.
- About 40 FFS beneficiaries from 12 cooperatives in six SAPLING project districts in the Western Terai region of Nepal are **positively responding to the innovation**.
- Farmers who received training from SAPLING-supported **Village Livestock Promoters** are shifting from feeding animals with 'whatever available' to a more balanced feed diet of mixed chopped roughages and concentrates at 60:40 proportion.

Next steps

- The **impact will be documented** and a **strategy developed** for scaling the innovation.
- Influence cooperatives and local government in non-project areas to **earmark funds in their annual budget** to implement the activity in all their Municipalities
- **Prepare policy briefs and arrange roundtable discussions** with potential scaling agencies such as line department and feed industries for mainstreaming this activity through their programs.

Partners

