



Rwanda Dairy Farm Assessment and Advisory Tool: a Qualitative Evaluation Study of Trainees' Experiences and Future Use

I. Background

The Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems (LSIL) designed the Rwanda Dairy Farm Assessment and Advisory Tool (RDFAAT), an innovative tool for evaluating and monitoring milk production systems and identifying limitations and opportunities for enhancement. Researchers presented it to a broad audience from the Rwandan dairy sector. However, the scope of the RDFAAT has not been evaluated, which means there is no evidence of its impact, challenges, benefits, or whether it was successfully implemented



To determine the feasibility of including the Dairy Farm Assessment and Advisory Tool as a diagnostic strategy in Rwanda's milk production system.

	III. Methodology		
	Procedures	Product	
Qualitative Data Collection	 Census of all past trainees Semi-structured interviews = 40 veterinarians and other professionals. Two focus groups and two S.W.O.T Analyses = 14 students. 	- Narrative tran - S.W.O.T matri	
Data Analysis	 Deductive coding analysis Descriptive statistics S.W.O.T matrix analysis 	- Codes, theme experiences. - Potential actio	

Figure 1. Procedures for data collection and analysis

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Fig. 2 Geographical location of participants

After the training, 43% of the trainees used the RDFAAT at least once, and veterinarians and technicians from the MCC expressed more frequent use of the RDFAAT or the information (fig 3). The RDFAAT has helped trainers reach more farmers and enhance milk production, given their knowledge about mastitis, hygiene practices, cowshed management, and more, despite some barriers (Table 1).



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(%) :	80
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Table 1. Barriers that would prevent stakeholders from using the tool

	Frequency of men		
Barrier	МСС	DSV	UR
Lack of knowledge	7	2	3
Lack of money	4	3	
Time constraints	1	3	
RDFAAT has many questions	1	3	1
Transport constraints	1	2	
Paper and laptop constraints	3		1

MCC: Milk Collection Center. DVS: District and Sector Vets. UR: the University of Rwanda Staff. Advs: Advisors



Strategies to overcome the barriers and strengthen the diffusion and implementation of the RDFAAT include showing trainees alternatives for implementing the RDFAAT, designing an App version of the RDFAAT, and engaging the Rwanda Ministry of Agriculture.

Trainees found RDFAAT a valuable mechanism to enhance the Rwandan dairy sector, given its positive impact on milk production. The RDFAAT is also a source of knowledge for veterinarians and farmers. MCCs are a strategic target to strengthen the RDFAAT's diffusion.

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Fig. 3 After the training, did you use the tool?



V. Conclusions

VI. Acknowledgments