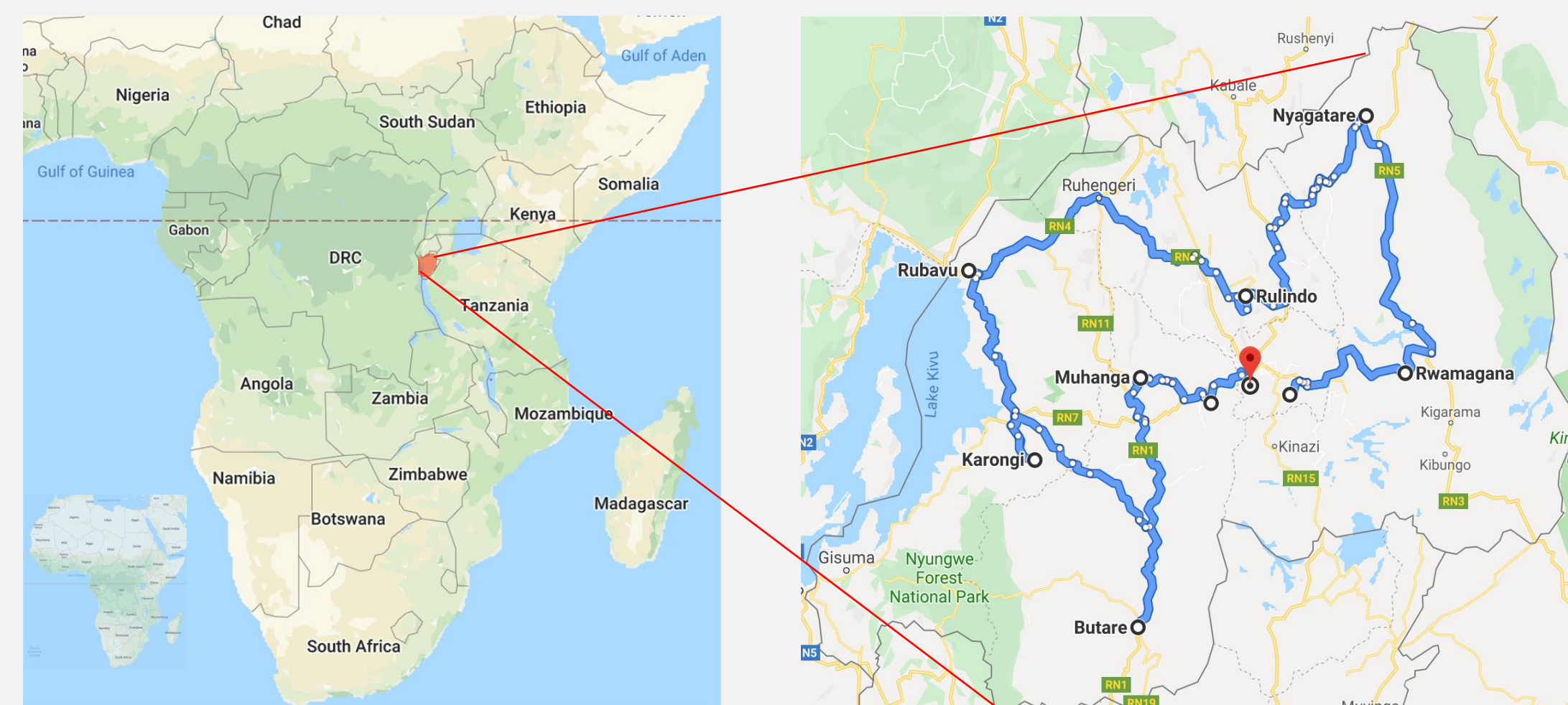


Evaluation of the Adoption and Dissemination of Innovations in Rwanda

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Location: Rwanda

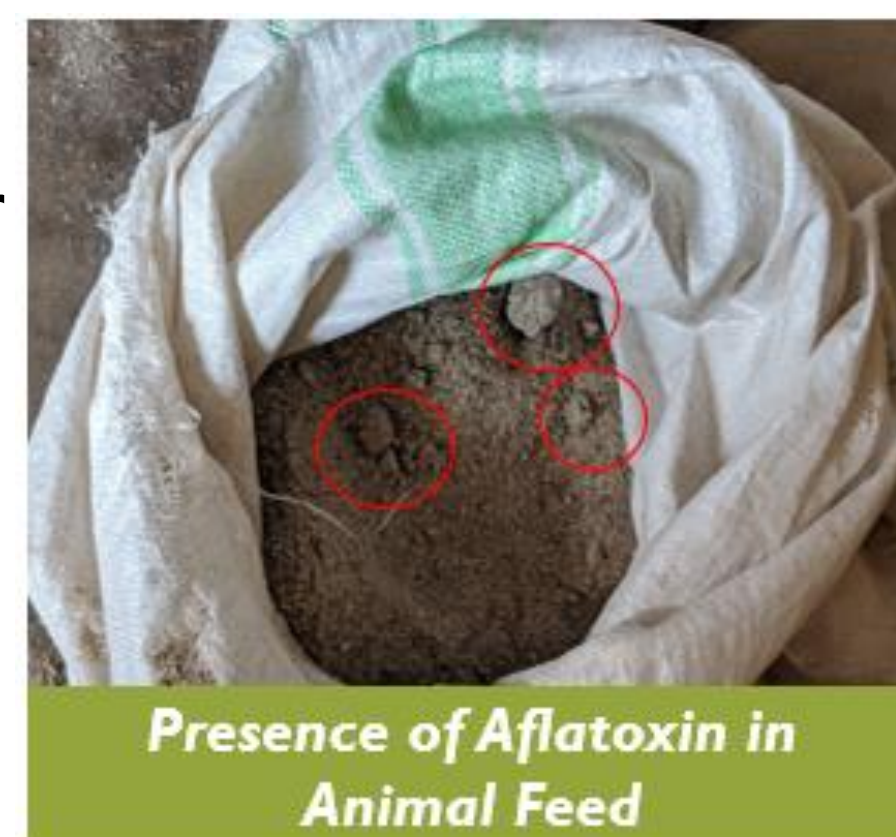


About the projects

Aflatoxin is a naturally occurring mycotoxin produced by mold and can cause liver damage and cancer if consumed by both animals and humans.

Preventative measures:

- Using pallets to keep animal feed elevated from the ground
- Ensure moisture content (humidity) in animal feed is low



Mastitis is an inflammation of the mammary gland in the udder, typically due to bacteria being introduced either during or after milking and environmental contact.

Preventative measures:

- Wash hands, materials and cow udder prior to beginning milking process
- To avoid infection, use iodine solution to clean cow udder after milking



Both infections are carried through animal products such as **eggs and milk**, and when consumed by humans can have a negative impact in their health.

Participating stakeholders received trainings providing information on strategic ways to prevent and mitigate the effects of **Mastitis** and **Aflatoxin**.

Introduction

- Evaluation** of the **adoption and dissemination** of information learned through trainings of two projects implemented in Rwanda that provided trainings on strategic ways to prevent and mitigate the effects of **Mastitis** and **Aflatoxin**
 - Measure** amount of participating stakeholders that **adopted and disseminated** the information provided during the trainings held for each project.
 - Identify barriers** that impeded the **adoption** of innovations or the **dissemination** of information learned during the trainings for each project.
 - Understand** the characteristics of adopters in comparison to non-adopters.

Results

1) Adoption of Innovation

Every farmer interviewed has adopted at least one of the recommendations made during training.

- Cleaning the udder and milking materials before beginning milking.
- Store feed on pallets, purchase less feed at a time, check the feed for mold.

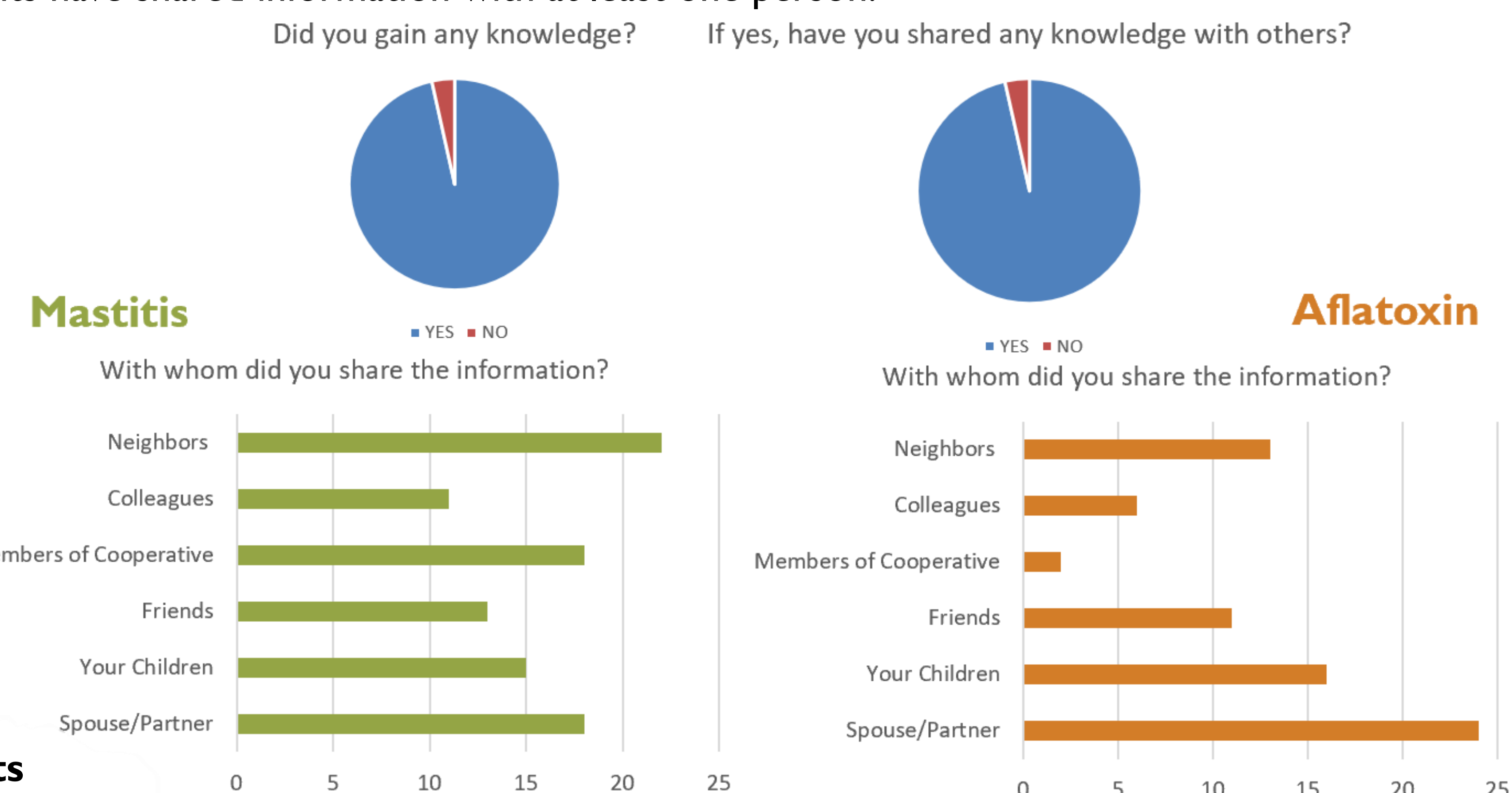


2) Barriers to adoption of Innovation

- Instability of workers (farm, milk collection center, vendors, and processors).
- Availability of materials and goods in the market, and the affordability of items when they are available.

3) Dissemination of Information

- 97% of respondents have shared information with at least one person.



4) Positive Impacts

Every participating respondent stated there was at least one positive impact directly as a result of the project implemented.

5) Negative Impacts

There was an increase in workload for most respondents, but most chose not to classify it as a negative impact, since that increase in workload was met with an increase in production & income.

Methodology

- Semi-structured interviews and a short survey** with project staff, collaborators, and participants, as well as personnel of organizations contributing to the dissemination of information generated through projects.
- Data collection locations:** 4 provinces (Northern, Southern, Western, Eastern) and Kigali City.

Semi-structured interviews	Number of Interviewees
Farmers (dairy or poultry, or both)	67
Veterinarians	10
Milk collection center managers	9
Feed vendors	12
Processing plants	4

Discussion

- Availability and access to materials in the market** such as testing materials and products/equipment necessary for stakeholders to adopt innovations.
- Financial barrier** to acquire materials such as a cup, iodine, metal cans, plastic feeders and pallets, which are necessary to apply the knowledge gained.
- Champion of Modifications**
 - Plastic feeders cost around 5,000 RWF
 - Wooden feeders cost around 3,000 RWF
 - Materials for feeder to assemble (DIY) 1,000 RWF
- Follow-up trainings/check-ups:** "I am like a knife. A knife needs sharpening every day or else it won't work" (respondent from Western province)
- The Dissemination** is dependent on a combination of many factors, such as **location and social networks**:
 - Mastitis** project had a physical location where people could see the poster, stakeholders shared information with other members of the cooperative
 - Aflatoxin** project did not engage a cooperative, due to lack of structure in who they should share information within their social network there was low dissemination
- Government support**
 - Subsidies