Abstract

Rabbits have the potential of meeting animal source food deficit on the tables of the poor and landless people. They rival other livestock because of their low start-up capital and feed intake, high fast growth, prolificacy, and feed conversion ratio. Furthermore they are easy to handle, not land dependent and are not adversely affected by taboos and beliefs. The proposed research will be inter and multi disciplinary. A cost effective and proven technique of participatory research appraisal (PRA) will be used to collect baseline data and to determine among other things sources and utilization frequency of animal source foods (ASF), farming management calendar and identification of opportunities such as rabbit production, sausage making and others. The exercise will be conducted at three representative sites of Kilifi County namely, Chony, Tezo and Vumbini. Following establishment of a rabbit research and multiplication centre at PUC, resulting offspring will be used in a nutritional comparative experiment to determine utilization efficiency of *Sonchus oleraceus* (mchunga), *Panicum coloratum* (Coloured Guinea), concentrated pellets and a combined diet of the three treatments. Rabbit broilers will be used in value addition trials whereby, meat sausage recipes developed by the Project will be compared against organoleptic tests.

Key words: Rabbit, meat, forages, nutrition and agronomy

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