Cattle Farmer Messages

- Supplemental feeding
- Milk production & Milk marketing
- Improved reproductive performance in Zebu cattle
- Calf Management & Bull Effect
- Water management
Cows were provided with feed supplements from October throughout November. It comprised of crushed *Gliciridia sepium* leaves and maize bran in equal proportion. Each experimental cow got 4 Kg of supplement feed in addition to pasture grazing. Cows that got feed supplements produced milk for a longer period compared to cows that did not get feed supplements during the dry season.
Supplement feed is positively associated with the length of lactation period (days in milk).

This shows a potential for enhanced milk yield and thereby improved food security by implementing strategies for supplemental feeding during the dry season.

Cows that lost body girth circumference during the dry period experienced lower likelihood becoming pregnant.

This shows a potential for improved reproductive performance by improving the feeding strategy.
Milk production can be improved by adopting better feeding strategy during the dry season. Better milk production can exert positive impact on the livelihood of smallholder farmers.

The initial survey, conducted in Bolero-EPA, showed that 10% of the survey farmers were involved in milk marketing.

Milk yield were higher in these farms, which shows a potential to improve feed security by enhanced milk production in the area.

Farmers involved in milk marketing had higher average milk production during the dry season as compared to the farmers that did not sell milk.

There exist a potential for increased food security by professionalizing the keeping and rearing of the Zebu cows in the District.
Malawian Zebu cows experienced fewer days from calving to the start of sexual activity during the driest period (cohort study n=101) as compared to the reports from Tanzanian Zebu cows.
It points towards a potential to maintain reproductive performance during the dry period by applying adequate management.

Our study showed that only 52% of the cows were pregnant within 6 months after previous calving.

[Calf Management & Bull Effect]

- In this study 18% calf mortality was observed. High calf mortality does not seem to be caused by infectious diseases, but relies probably on poor management.
- Herds keeping their own bull experienced significantly more pregnant cows than herds that were dependent on the “neighbors bulls” mating their cows during grazing.
- Calf mortality can be reduced by adopting better calf rearing practices. Thus improved calf health can enhance the food production from the zebu cattle in the region.
- The number of pregnant cows in herd can be increased by keeping a bull in the herd.
bore / tap water from manual to mechanical forces.

Therefore, it is important to convert the delivery of
work force for taking out tap and bore water make it last
with pregnancy and lactation length

Water source during the dry period was significantly associated

[Water Management]