

From the Producer's experience

The outcome of my work as a result of this project is a very challenging but rewarding experience. The whole purpose on this project is adopting rotational grazing management practices and productivity that created supplemental food sources, self-employment, an eco-tourism attraction that encouraged Rota farmers/ranchers.

The major work completed on this project were the 1) the subdivided paddocks for rotational grazing with water-line connecting from the main water meter and a temporary fence from cyclone wire and recycled drums. 2) a tourist spot area where people can stay and enjoy sight seeing while learning the sustainable practices in deer production. 3) Built also six by ten feet tin water catchment to help supply drinking water in case of city water shut down. 4) Planted guinea grass and bokso in all three sections for grazing alternation.



Benefits

Rotational Grazing management

Agri-Tourism

Parasite Control

Alternative Enterprise

Additional income

Healthy Animals

Healthy Environment and happy Family!!!

Special points of interest:

“ The most significant results are the grazing alternation (move every 2-3 weeks) on all three different sections and water catchment for water supply as an alternative from the city water. The impacts that has affected the operation on this project is the weather especially during the dry season. It really caused a delay on grass seedlings and requires a lot of irrigation in the field. “

Western SARE FW09-050 Producer Grant

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Objectives

The project demonstrated sustainable livestock grazing strategies to local farmers/ranchers to protect soil, the environment, and the wild life promoting “Katne Binadu” deer farming. Maximization of natural resources available.

The project investigated in the creation of alternative enterprise such as deer meet tapa

and jerky, deer “Katne Binadu” production, agri-tourism concept of education and marketing, promotion and preservation of cultural delicacy, promotion of small scale profitable business. This means creation of self-employment and empowering of small business

Project Results

I was able to divide my limited area into three paddocks compared to single paddocks and demonstrated the rotational grazing every 2-3 weeks time.

Recycled drums were used as additional fencing and a rain catchment too due to severe drought encountered during the summer.

A tourist spot were created to promote agri-tourism however, less tourist have been recorded due to airline limitations going to the island of Rota. However,

the project were promoted to local people through filed trips and small gathering.

Planting of grass needs focus especially during the drought. I learned that I needed to plant early in order to supply the feed requirement of my deer. Additional cut and carry system was done as advise by my Technical Advisor. .



“Family involvement during weekends teaching the right agriculture– sustainable agriculture– the local way”

OUTREACH

Outreach programs were well communicated to others through social networking such as facebook and local television on channel five. This local television is a local program for the entire Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Field day from school children and the community as shown in some of the pictures in the facebook and the pictures provided in this report as well as the fact sheets.

Objectives...

The demonstration of deer through effective rotational grazing strategy, protection through provision of alternative animal health regimen, and provision of good pasture and proper grazing system. No artificial feeds and medicines will be used to promote organic deer production.

The project tried to investigate

antler production and revision. It will further promote dry tapa and jerky, and agri-tourism. It will open a lot of opportunities in the long run.

By demonstrating sustainable strategy and coupling it with agri-tourism, more clients was reached and educate about the proper way to manage animals and promote environ-



“An innovative way of using recycled drums as fencing for deer production”



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egy and coupling it with agri-tourism, more clients was reached and educate about the proper way to manage animals and promote environmental protection while creating an enterprise for livelihood..



The benefits from this project is creating self-employment and site attraction for eco-tourism as a sustainable tourism industry in the future. It would also gear in the local food and a taste from our local delicacies blending together with the preservation of our culture. The soul quality will help grow healthier grazing in the fence as well as the fruits from the deer manure as it becomes dried up. The erosion is not much of a problem from where this project is located because it is a flat land and water stays balanced when it dries up. Since this is not just a small business, profits would not be big at this point in time especially during this economic crisis.

There are some potential impacts on the deer behavior since the beginning of this project. Upon observation on the deer behavior, the deer are biting each other on the skin at a certain behavior and time. Most of the time one deer would pursue another deer until peel the skin. This is a very serious behavior that threatens the health of the deer population in general. This behavior needs serious attention and possible isolation or individual deer confinement to be treated in case the sore is getting worse. Medicines for these skin sores are also a factor to be explored through internet so that easy access to be ordered in case they are needed. Dewormal medicines are also needed to prevent the animals from getting skinny from worms. These are some of the factors as far as the impacts on the behavior of the animals at the same time creating health hazards.

Reaction from Producers

“Less parasites observed is the reaction from producers which is significant since there is limited medicines readily available to treat the animals in the islands. There is no veterinarian clinic here on Rota to check our animals in case they’re sick. Medicines have to be ordered in advance like dewormals or medicines that can be ordered without the science of the veterinarian.

Although this instance have not fully described and studied, significant changes were observed due to rotational grazing. Additional grazing sections are needed for future expansion

as the deer population grows. There is a need to build a small carrel in order to isolate sick deer’s and to apply medicines.



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