Forages vs foraging

Improved feeding systems for more efficient beef cattle production in Cambodia
Background

• 13.5 million people
• 84% in rural areas
• GDP = $2K per capita (Aust = $36K)
• Tradition of rice and fish
• Most have cattle
  – shift from ‘keeping’ for draught and wealth to production
• Very strong market demand (Vietnam)
• Greatest limitation: nutrition
Project objectives

Objective 1
To increase adoption of forage fodder banks, reducing the time associated with feeding livestock.

Objective 2
To increase smallholder farmer income from cattle production by improving feed quality, availability and feed use efficiency.
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Up to 8 hrs/day (average = 4 hrs/day)

Published in: Pen et al (2009)
Target: Adoption in 2 provinces

Outcome: Adoption in 21 provinces

Why?
Adopting forages saves time

Reduced time spent raising cattle by 2 hr/day

Published in: Dimang et al (2009)
Project objectives

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Children spend less time raising cattle.
Project objectives

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School attendance rates improved
Incidence of lateness reduced

Published in: Maxwell et al (2012)
What are the benefits at home?

1) Improved educational outcomes for our students
2) Improved biosecurity
3) Scientific discovery
1) Improved educational outcomes for our students
2. Improved biosecurity
3) Scientific discovery of direct relevance to Australia’s industries:

More efficient feeding systems on low quality roughage
(Pen et al 2012)

Better management of N cycling in the whole-farm system
(Pen et al 2013)

Practical strategies for reducing methane emissions
(submitted to Animal this month)