

Tables of nutritive value for farm animals in tropical and Mediterranean regions: an important asset for improving the use of local feed resources

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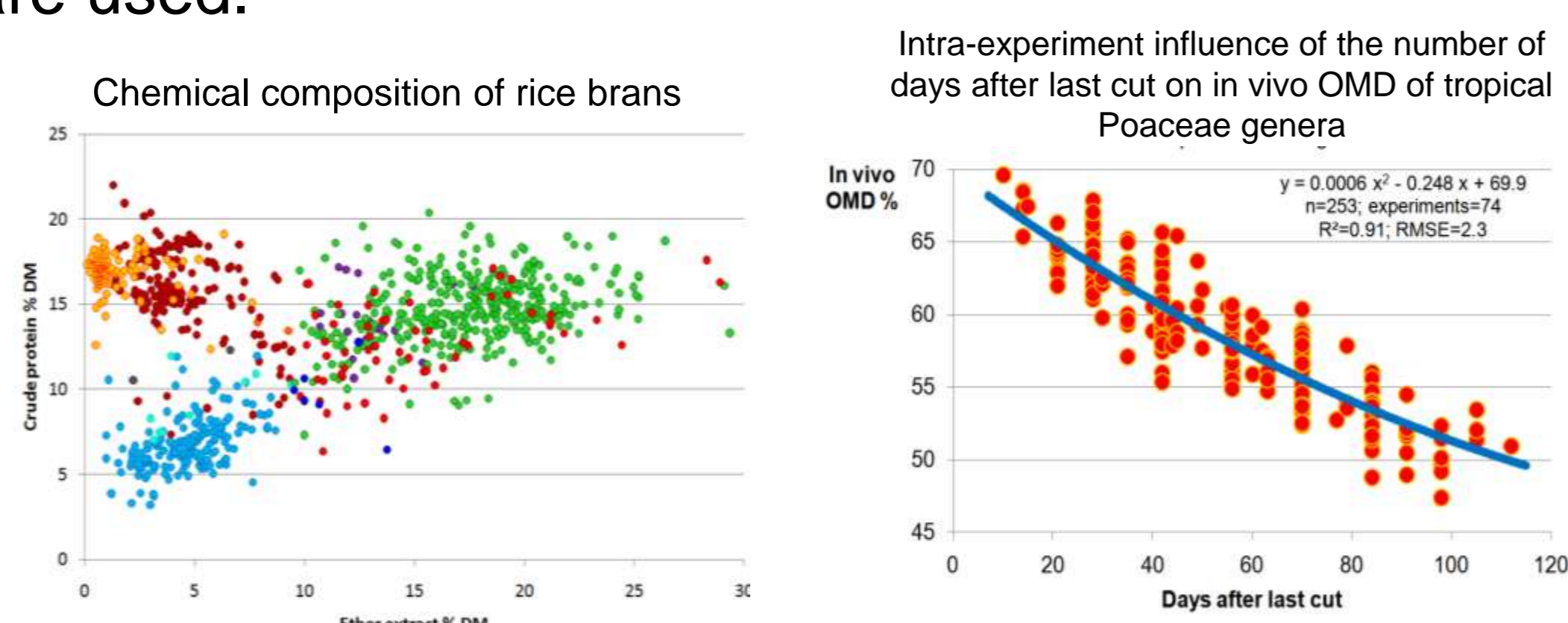
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Objectives

- In tropical, subtropical and Mediterranean areas, the demand for animal products is steadily growing, and so does the need for accurate feed information. However, users in those regions must often rely on data obtained in temperate countries or use obsolete or incomplete feed tables.
- The **Tables of nutritive values for farm animals in tropical and Mediterranean regions** is a project of INRA, CIRAD and AFZ with support from the FAO and other organisations.
- These tables will contain **comprehensive and updated nutritional information** as well as relationships between composition and nutrition parameters for conventional and non-conventional feed materials for the main livestock species. The work will also help identifying areas of incomplete knowledge thereby stimulating needed research.
- A better knowledge of **local feeds will result in a more efficient use of these resources**, less reliance on imported techniques and feeds, and **better opportunities for livestock in sustainable integrated farming systems**.

Methodology

- **Research and identification** of data sources.
- **Collection and summarizing** of quantitative and qualitative feed data.
- **Establishment of consistent chemical and nutritive values.** For feed groups, the methods of **meta-analysis** are used.



Results

- A **database** containing **7000** documents, **430,000** feed samples and more than **2 million** data.

The screenshot shows a web-based interface for the database. It includes a search bar, a list of documents, and a detailed view of a feed sample with various chemical and nutritive parameters.

- A **collaborative website** enabling on-line editing by the researchers working on the project.

The screenshot shows a web-based interface for the collaborative website. It includes a search bar, a list of documents, and a detailed view of a feed sample with various chemical and nutritive parameters.

- A first batch of **100 datasheets** by the end of 2010.

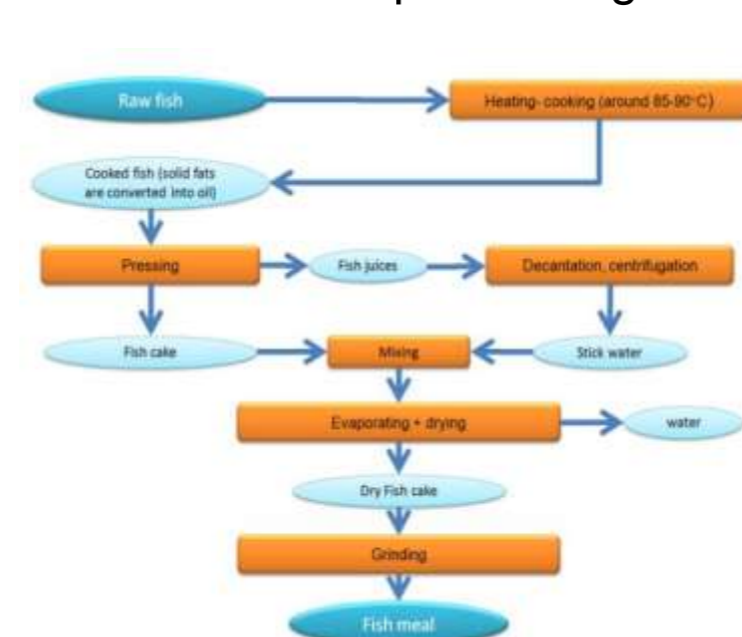
Contents

Tables are presented in the form of **datasheets** containing the following information:

- **Feed nomenclature and descriptions:** scientific and vernacular names, physical aspect, processes, uses and environmental impact.
- **Photographs and process charts.**



Fish meal processing



- **Feeding recommendations** for the main livestock species, including cautionary information.
- **Composition and nutritive values** derived from feed databases and scientific literature.
- **Literature references.**

Further actions

- **Finding new research partners** in order to increase the breadth of data collection and expertise.
- Creation of **200 datasheets per year** until 2013.
- Production of **INRA/CIRAD/AFZ tables**.
- Creation of a **website in partnership with the FAO**. Website content will be maintained on a permanent basis to provide updated information to feed users.

