

other branch of the Ministry of Agriculture could provide farmers with this information. Second, these substances need to be made available to farmers at lower costs if greater utilization is the goal. This might involve government subsidies to reduce the costs.¹⁰¹ To facilitate the distribution of these dressings to farmers, merchants could be used as intermediaries. They already perform this role for the distribution of DDT.

3. If possible, a viable substitute should be introduced to farmers to replace DDT. DDT is a very toxic substance which is detrimental to the health of those who use it and consume it.¹⁰² This substitute should also be inexpensive and effective against ants and termites or farmers won't use it.
4. Farmers should be discouraged from using salt on their millet and sorghum threshing floors in the center of their fields. The long-term effects of such practices are detrimental to the soil quality of the area. An alternative should be introduced to protect these grains from termites. Once again, this alternative should be relatively inexpensive so that farmers can easily adopt it.

D. Availability of Drinking Water

Farmers do not have adequate water supplies in many of these villages throughout the year. Water shortages adversely affect farmers' animal husbandry patterns, and force many farmers to migrate during the dry season. In addition, high water costs during the dry season seriously deplete the earnings farmers gain from crop output.

Compensating Strategies

1. If available, farmers rely on nearby Government hafirs and/or wells to meet their water needs. In some villages, such facilities provide a year-round water source which enables farmers to stay in the village throughout the dry season. Such permanent water sources also encourage the accumulation of livestock.
2. Most farmers make use of natural rain pools and other water courses during the rainy season up to November.
3. Many farmers dig shallow wells (tamads) in dry water courses to obtain water. If other sources of water are available for human consumption, such wells are usually used to water animals.
4. Some farmers finance the digging of deep wells to gain access to water. This pattern is particularly true of big livestock owners.

¹⁰¹ Although we are not in favor of government subsidies, this would be the only way to make these substances accessible to farmers.

¹⁰² DDT is often mixed in with sesame, so that consuming some of the substance is unavoidable.