

# PLANT FODDER TREES FOR MORE MILK AND CASH



Leucaena



Mulberry



Calliandra

## Why plant fodder trees

Most small-scale farmers keep high-grade dairy cattle. They are mainly fed on napier grass, but it is not a complete feed and it is often not enough. Inadequate amounts of good feed leads to low milk yield. Tree fodder from Calliandra, Leucaena and Mulberry can increase milk yield.

## Where to plant fodder trees

- Along farm boundaries to save on crop fields
- Along *fanya juu* and *fanya chini* terraces to make them stable
- Around the homestead to provide privacy
- In napier plots to be harvested together with napier



## How to plant your trees

- Make a nursery for Calliandra and Leucaena seeds and Mulberry cuttings. Mulberry cuttings can also be planted directly in your fields.
- Seedlings growing under mature trees can also be planted in the field.
- Plant the seedlings and cuttings at the start of the rains.
- Plant them in rows at a spacing of 0.5 m (1.5 ft) to form a hedge.
- Apply 1 kg tin of manure or 1 tsp. of NPK 23:23:0 per hole
- One cow needs about 500 trees to feed it for a year. This occupies 250 m of single hedgerow or 125 m of double hedgerow.



## How to manage your fodder trees

- Harvest trees at a uniform height of about 1m (3 ft) using a sharp panga.
- Harvest trees every 10-12 weeks i.e. 4-5 cuttings a year.
- Cut back to about 15 cm (6 inches) after 6-7 years to promote new growth.
- Apply 1 kg tin of manure per tree at the beginning of the long rains every year.

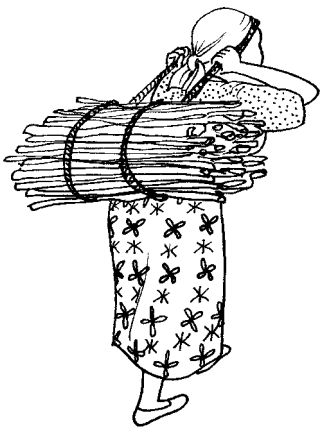


## How to feed your dairy cows

- Harvest and feed 1 part tree fodder to every 3 parts of napier grass or other grasses.
- Mix the two, chop and feed.
- Tree fodder can be harvested, dried and stored as hay for dry season feeding.
- 3 kg of fresh tree fodder gives about the same milk yield as 1 kg dairy meal.
- If tree fodder is fed alone, feed 6-9 kg fresh fodder per cow per day.
- If tree fodder and dairy meal are mixed, feed 6 kg fodder and 1 kg dairy meal per day.
- High milk yielders need more dairy meal or tree fodder.



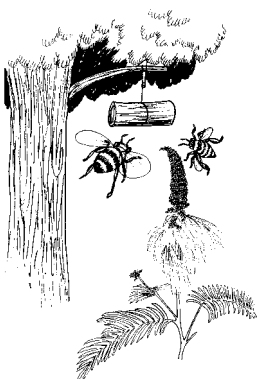
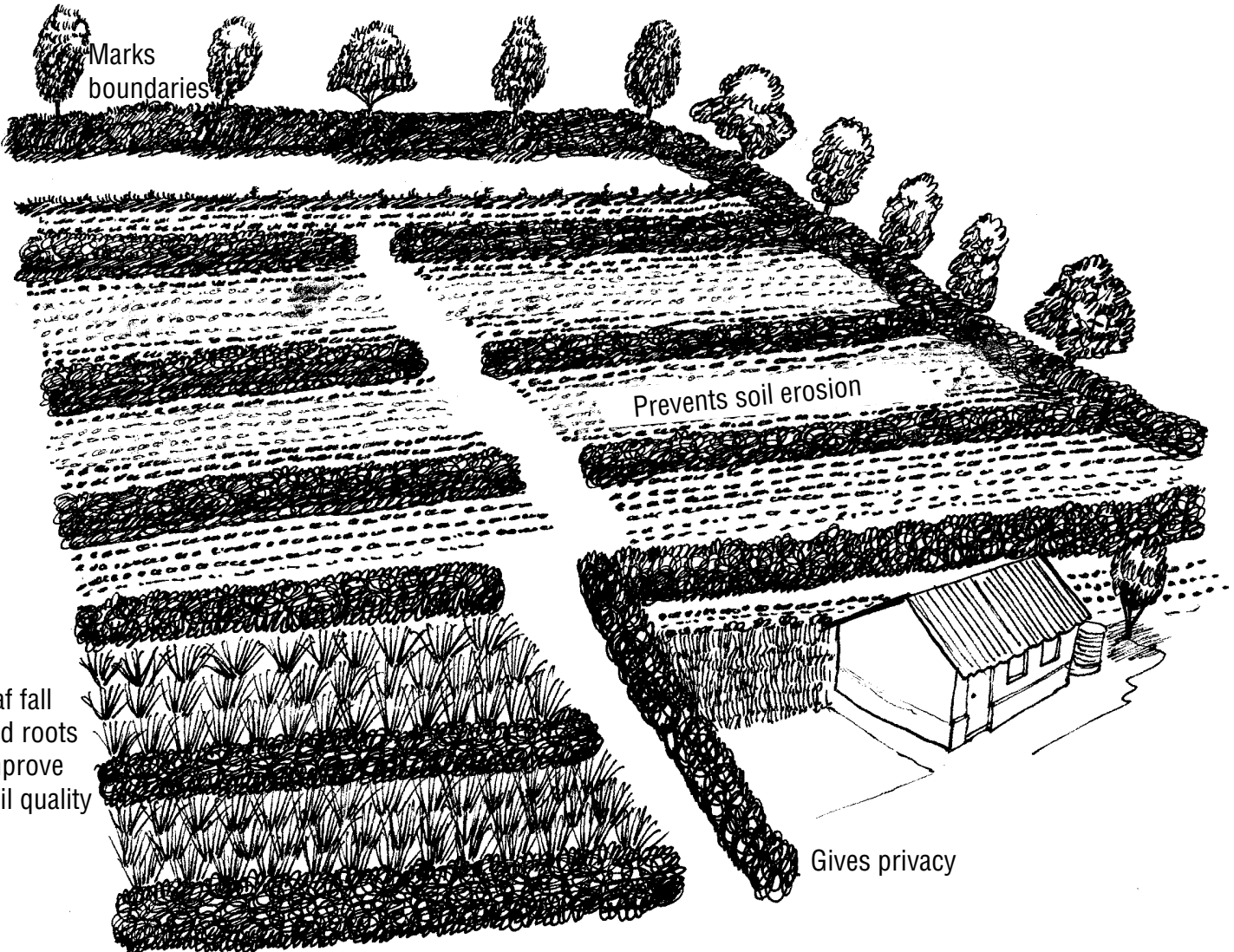
## Other benefits of planting fodder trees



Source of good firewood



Gives stakes for supporting tomatoes and climbing beans



Provides forage for bees to make honey



When eaten by livestock, they produce good manure.