Maziwa Zaidi (More Milk) in Tanzania

Improved forages can boost milk production in Tanzania’s Highlands

Solomon Mwendia (CIAT), Rolf Sommer (CIAT), Cyril Lissu (SUA), Beatus Nzogela (CIAT) and Birthe Paul (CIAT)

Key messages
- Tanzania’s highland areas like Lushoto-Tanga have the potential to increase milk production for improved household nutrition and incomes
- But a major constraint hindering livestock performance is inadequate quality and quantity forages
- Community based forage seed systems can spread forage availability and adoption for increased animal productivity
- Promotion and awareness of improved forages with potential to improve productivity is critical

Opportunities for inclusive investment and scaling
- Production and sale of Brachiaria, Napier grass and Desmodium seeds or planting materials could present Community Based Organizations (CBOs) - especially women and youth – with income generating opportunities
- Using improved forages can also boost milk production for domestic consumption and sale
- There is need to create awareness of the untapped benefits of forage production through CBOs

Objectives and approach
- We evaluated forages for increased output and quality
- Our farmer participatory forage evaluation included Brachiaria, Napier grass, Desmodium and the benefits of proper agronomic measures
- We involved livestock researchers and extension workers in Tanzania to make the work sustainable

Key results
- Napier grass and Brachiaria can improve livestock productivity
- Desmodium can improve fodder quality as is rich in plant protein
- Planting materials /seeds for forages are not easily sourced and efforts towards this would enhance adoption
- Farmers are willing to improve animal productivity for increased income from milk and meat

Pictures and graphs

Figure 1. Herbage yield (t/ha) of forage technologies over seven growth cycles and at two sites (Mbuzii, Ubiri) at Lushoto, Tanzania highlands

Napier-Desmodium intercrop
Napier canes planting materials

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