



Enteropogon macrostachyus, Variety ENMA_KBK

The challenge

- Lack of quality seed for range grasses
- Avail seed of adapted range grass varieties for increased forage production and reduce land degradation
- Range grass pasture research at KALRO Kiboko span many years – 1980's to date
- Target beneficiary: Both pastoral and agro-pastoral communities

Our innovative approach

- Characterization, selection and evaluation of ecotypes of farmer preferred range grass species
- Variety registration and release
- Production of certified seed



Cenchrus ciliaris, Variety TVT3



Chloris roxburghiana, var. CHROX_KBK



INITIATIVE ON
Accelerated Breeding

Climate smart range grasses for improved livestock productivity in Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs)

- Feed shortage, a major challenge to livestock production in the ASALs
- Range reseeding constrained by seed unavailability in quantity and quality
- Community based seed systems are alternative options to enhance range grass seed availability and access
- Informal seed systems faced with a myriad of challenges

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Outcomes

- **4 range grass varieties** released in 2021
- **Capacity building of KALRO and KEPHIS staff** on forage variety evaluations for release and seed certification
- **KALRO/KEPHIS collaboration** on pasture activities strengthened

Loading of range grass seed under the informal seed system



Next steps

- **Complete commercialization process** of the released varieties & continue with **variety development** to avail more varieties from different range species to select from
- **Gaps/challenges to overcome:**
 - Mechanization of threshing for some varieties
 - High seed dormancy innate with natural pastures
- Support needed include **funding** and **collaboration for release of more varieties** and to address above challenges

Partners



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