

Context

- Inadequate feeding a major constraint for consistent meat and milk supply during the dry season in Uganda.
- As a result of a poorly functioning forage seed value chain, improved forage productivity is greatly hampered in Uganda
- National and international private seed businesses are making efforts to provide service in the Ugandan market but are to date struggling to find economically viable business models that offer attractive profits. It is critical to involve private sector actors
- This project demonstrated how to effectively invest public and private resources in the production, marketing, promotion of use and quality control of forage seed

Our innovative approach

- Evaluate existing needs, constraints and opportunities in forage seed systems in Uganda and Kenya
- Identify and analyze business models for different forage species and varieties in the two countries
- Development of knowledge on how to promote the availability of improved varieties of forage crops
- Pilot and test different mechanisms for seed quality control for their appropriateness (both technical and cost related) for different forage crops.



NUTRITION & FOOD SECURITY

Enhancing availability of quality forages seeds in Uganda and Kenya

- Address constraints in the forage seed value chain in Uganda and Kenya
- Develop viable business models for forage seed production and marketing in Uganda and Kenya
- Pilot solutions for forage seed quality assurance and quality seed use in Uganda and Kenya



A Rhodes grass demo plot by NaLIRRI, in Kiboga, Uganda.
Photo Ben Lukuyu/ILRI



RESEARCH PROGRAM ON Livestock

LIVESTOCK FEEDS & FORAGES

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Outcomes

- Increased understanding of opportunities for business driven forage seed production and dissemination by public, private and civil society actors.
- Recommended business strategies integrated into commercial strategies and seed sector development efforts.
- Profitable forage seed production and widespread distribution to diverse farmers
- Seed businesses using seed quality control measures
- Commercial seed companies integrating promotion campaigns in their business strategy.

Future steps

- Learnings from the research will support different forage seed entrepreneurs to innovate their business strategies and diversify forage species they offer clients
- Influence development initiatives to train seed producers on recommended quality assurance measures.

Partners

- Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), Research Institute (NaLIRRI), Uganda, Kisii County Government Livestock Office, Advantage Crop Ltd., Meru Dairy Cooperative, Kenya, Farmers in both countries

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