



## Feeds and feeding practices

The East Africa Dairy Development (EADD) project is a regional industry development program implemented by a consortium of partners led by Heifer International. It is currently being piloted in 18 sites in Kenya, 8 in Rwanda and 27 in Uganda. The overall goal of the project is to transform the lives of 179,000 families, or about 1 million people, by doubling household dairy income in 10 years through integrated interventions in dairy production, market access and knowledge application.

This brief highlights key results of a baseline survey that was carried out with the objective of providing information on cattle production systems and the current feeding practices in smallholder households in selected sites in Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda. Details are available in the baseline survey report No. 3.

### Baseline survey methodology

**Why:** To assess the baseline situation of dairy farmers and their communities at the start of the project, and to identify key constraints dairy farmers and market agents face and opportunities for overcoming them through targeted project interventions.

**When:** July to October 2008

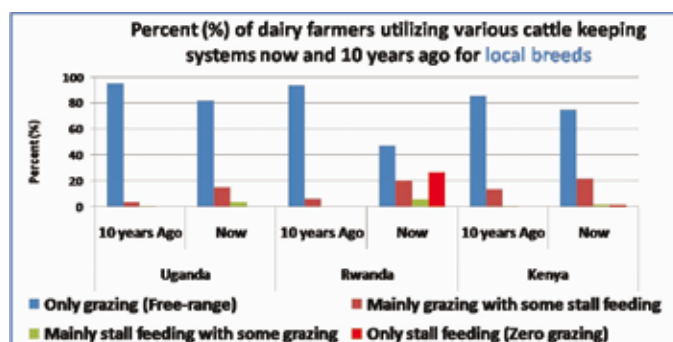
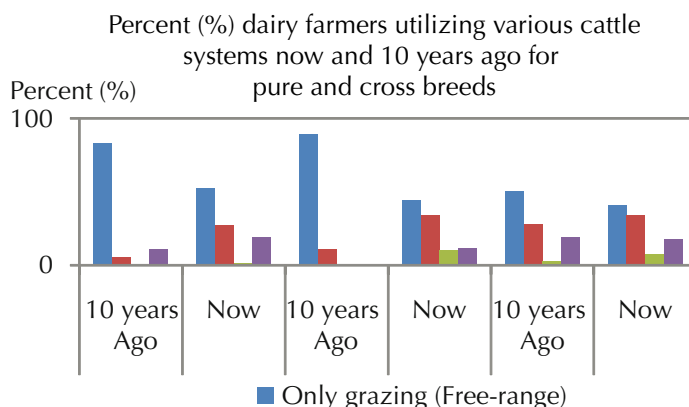
**Where:** Three survey sites in Rwanda and five each in Kenya and Uganda; two control sites in Kenya and one each in Rwanda and Uganda

**What:** Community, household and market agent surveys

**How:** 75 households and 20 market agents sampled per site. Focus group discussions for the community survey; structured questionnaire for the household and market agent surveys.

### Feed systems

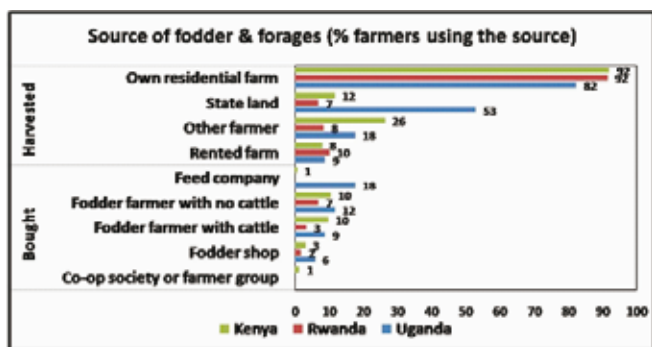
Feed systems for both exotic and local cattle breeds are changing over time. This shift presents opportunities to supplement fodder through provision of high-quality forages and concentrates.



## Forages used

A large diversity was observed in the types of feed resources used by dairy households; these included Napier grass, crop by-products, hay, maize stover, weeds and cut grass. Napier grass and other crop by-products were the most commonly used forages in Rwanda and Uganda, while in Kenya, Napier grass and maize stover were most commonly used. Across all three countries, the greatest proportion of farmers (over 90%) sourced fodder from their own farms, though in Uganda, growing of fodder on state land was an important source of fodder for about half (53%) of farmers. Breeding services preferred

Overall in all three countries, households preferred to use bull service over AI. However, there were a few hubs where a greater proportion of households preferred AI; these were Mukono in Uganda, Bwisanga in Rwanda and Kabiyeet in Kenya.

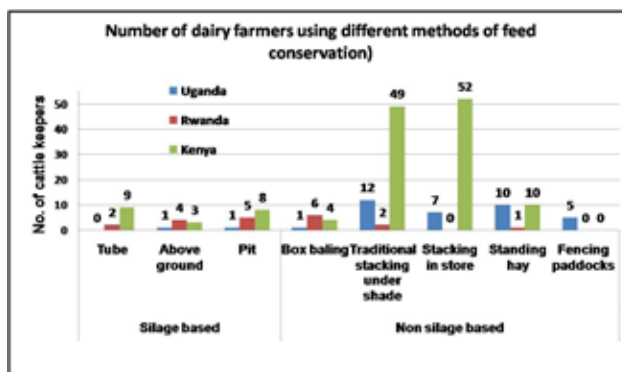


## Conservation of feed

Very few dairy farmers were observed to conserve feed across all three countries. The non-silage based methods of traditional stacking under a shade and stacking in a store were used by the highest number of cattle-keepers.

## Use of concentrate feed

Use of concentrate feed was very low across all countries, especially in Uganda, but was generally higher than 10 years ago. Concentrates were reportedly used by 33% and 12% of cattle-keeping households in Kenya and Rwanda, respectively. In Uganda, only 4% of cattle-keepers used concentrate feed. This result suggests low supplementation to dairy cows which may be one of the reasons for low milk production.



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