# Improving productivity in Kenyan Smallholder Dairy systems through selective, intensive education and supported adoption

JP Goopy<sup>1</sup>, JK Gakige<sup>1</sup>

1 The Mazingira Centre, International Livestock Research Institute, Nairobi

### Introduction

- Improving productivity of smallholder dairy has the potential to improve milk supply and quality and rural incomes.
- Average milk yield is 1.8-3. 0 l/d in W. Kenya.







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- Low milk yield is often attributed to poor genetics, BUT we discovered that frequently production is constrained by a lack of knowledge, regarding husbandry and feeding.
- Currently existing training, but is short-term, narrow and untargeted in terms of recipients.

Demonstrating the use of scythes for mowing hay to farmers

### Target early adopters.

- Identifying innovators in a number of communities in Western Kenya.
- Provide an 1mth intensive course covering:
  - husbandry,
  - animal nutrition,
  - forage/crop agronomy
  - dairy technology
  - business analysis skills.
- Farmers will be supported to implement knowledge and technology in his/her community.

## (First) Results

• 83 farmers trained (2 schools); follow-up concluded on 1<sup>st</sup> School (33 farmers). (Table 1)

**Table1:** Practice adoption and training given by course attendees

Technology/ Practice	Trainee Adoption	Farmers trained by trainees
Forage Preservation (Hay making/Silage production)	17	152
Forage/ Fodder Cultivation	21	124
Improved feeding/ Milk yield	10	197
Improved Husbandry	9	75
Improved milk Handling	2	26
Manure handling/ Compost Production	3	0

Beneficiaries of training will serve as a focal point and source of knowledge in their communities.





Farmers using a manual hay baler

### Conclusion

Small –scale

silage making

demonstration

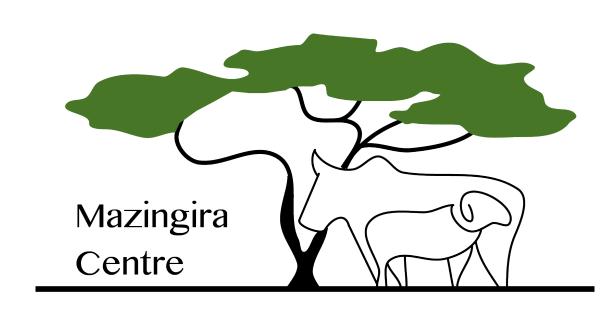
- Targeted selection of course participants results in high rates of adoption and dissemination.
- In-depth training improves comprehension and allows individuals to select interventions that best apply to their situation.



Uptake and persistence of adoption will be improved by providing ongoing logistical support.

John Goopy .j.goopy@cgiar.org The Mazingira Centre • ILRI, Nairobi Kenya • ilri.org This project was funded by GIZ

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