

Maziwa Zaidi (More Milk) in Tanzania

Improved forages in Lushoto have wide adoption potential

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Key messages:

- Investment in forage development and adaptation can take mature technology to wide-scale dissemination
 - Public and private investment is needed to reach a large number of farmers
- Barriers to adoption include the nature of forage technologies, market forces, farmers' characteristics and institutions

Objectives and approach:

- Despite research and development investments in improved forage technologies to alleviate feed constraints, wide-scale adoption is lacking.
- The objective of this study was to assess the adoption potential of tested forage technologies.
- Methods included a semi-structured questionnaire survey, structured field observations, a literature review, and a multi-stakeholder workshop using qualitative participatory expert-based assessment.

Key results I:

Literature identified four major factors constraining forage adoption:

- 1) The nature of forage technologies (availability of planting material, growth behavior, drought resistance, knowledge);
- 2) Market forces (milk prices, milk collection, market linkages);
- 3) Farmers characteristics (income, land availability, education, access to information, age, gender, risk aversion);
- 4) Institutional determinants (extension services, quality of extension, loan and credit availability).



Local feeding with maize biomass (pic by G. Smith/CIAT)



Farmers joint harvesting of rachiaria spp cv. Mulato (pic by G. Smith/CIAT)

Key results II:

The multi-stakeholder workshop revealed the following:

- The lack of off-farm income opportunities leads to low labor value, especially in dry season, so labor-saving technologies such as forage cultivation are not favored;
- These technologies have matured; now massive upscaling of forage technologies is needed
- This includes mass communication, support from the local administration, and improved access to the milk value chain, to raise awareness among farmers.

Opportunities for inclusive investment and scaling:

- Wide-scale training of extension officers in Usumbara highlands is required to reach a large number of farmers
- Organization of community-based production of planting material is needed
- Investment in communication campaigns e.g. through the radio



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