

Maziwa Zaidi (More Milk) in Tanzania

Towards solutions for year round feed availability: Experiences on Innovation platform and value chain approaches in Lushoto District, Tanzania

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Key messages

- Unavailability of quality and quantity feed especially during the dry season is a key constraint hindering dairy cattle productivity in Tanzania
- Forage establishment is often neglected relative to food crops, yet livestock can make a positive contribution to whole farm productivity
- Innovation platform and value chain approaches are suited for on-farm introduction, evaluation and utilization of improved forages such as Napier grass to increase dairy cattle productivity

Objectives and approach

Using semi-structured qualitative explorative interviews, structured field observations and quantification, performance assessment and applying innovation platform approach, the study uncovered triggering and sustaining factors towards further adaptation and adoption of improved forage technologies from a farmer's perspective.

Key results

Triggering factors for adopting improved forages

- shortage of feed and soil conservation measures
- expected economic gain in improving farmers' livelihoods
- Shortage of land and hence inadequate pastures for extensive grazing

Sustaining factors for maintaining forages after adoption

- increased fodder demand due to increased number of farmers using improved forage technologies
- accumulated benefits (increased animal numbers, milk marketing, farmyard manure, forage yields and income).
- Co-creation of solutions to feeds availability in IP

Farmers' preference on forage attributes

- Rapid regeneration after harvest; Length of stem; Tolerance to drought; Leaf size and High number of tillers/stool

Opportunities to invest and scale

Private investors:

- Value addition especially small-scale milk and feed processing technologies (Agri-business),
- Inputs supplies and other services such as access to credit and animal health,
- Youth and other vulnerable groups empowerment in dairy entrepreneurship,
- Use of information on farmers' preference for forage attributes by individuals with excess land to grow fodder that has the identified attributes and sell it.

Public investors:

- From farmers perspective, further up-scaling needs support in:
 - dairy genetics especially efficient AI services,
 - fodder/feed marketing especially provision of feed centres and sufficient planting materials
 - expansion of the technologies to other farmers beyond the innovation platforms.



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