

Maziwa Zaidi (More Milk) in Tanzania

Getting by in the dry season: Ololilis in Tanzania

Alessandra Galiè and Ben Lukuyu
International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)

Key messages

- Ololili are key for women to feed the family in the dry season. Collapse of an ololili leads households into a spiral of poverty
- Community power and gender dynamics hinder the building or restoration of ololili, particularly for poorer women and widows
- Equitable governance of ololili needs addressing for a successful introduction of forage technology
- Women and men are interested in participating in forage improvement initiatives

Objectives and approach

Ololili is a traditional Maasai forage conservation system that women use to feed cows and the family in the hunger months of the year. It is a viable option for enhancing dairy productivity by improving forage. The gender dimensions of ololili have not been studied.

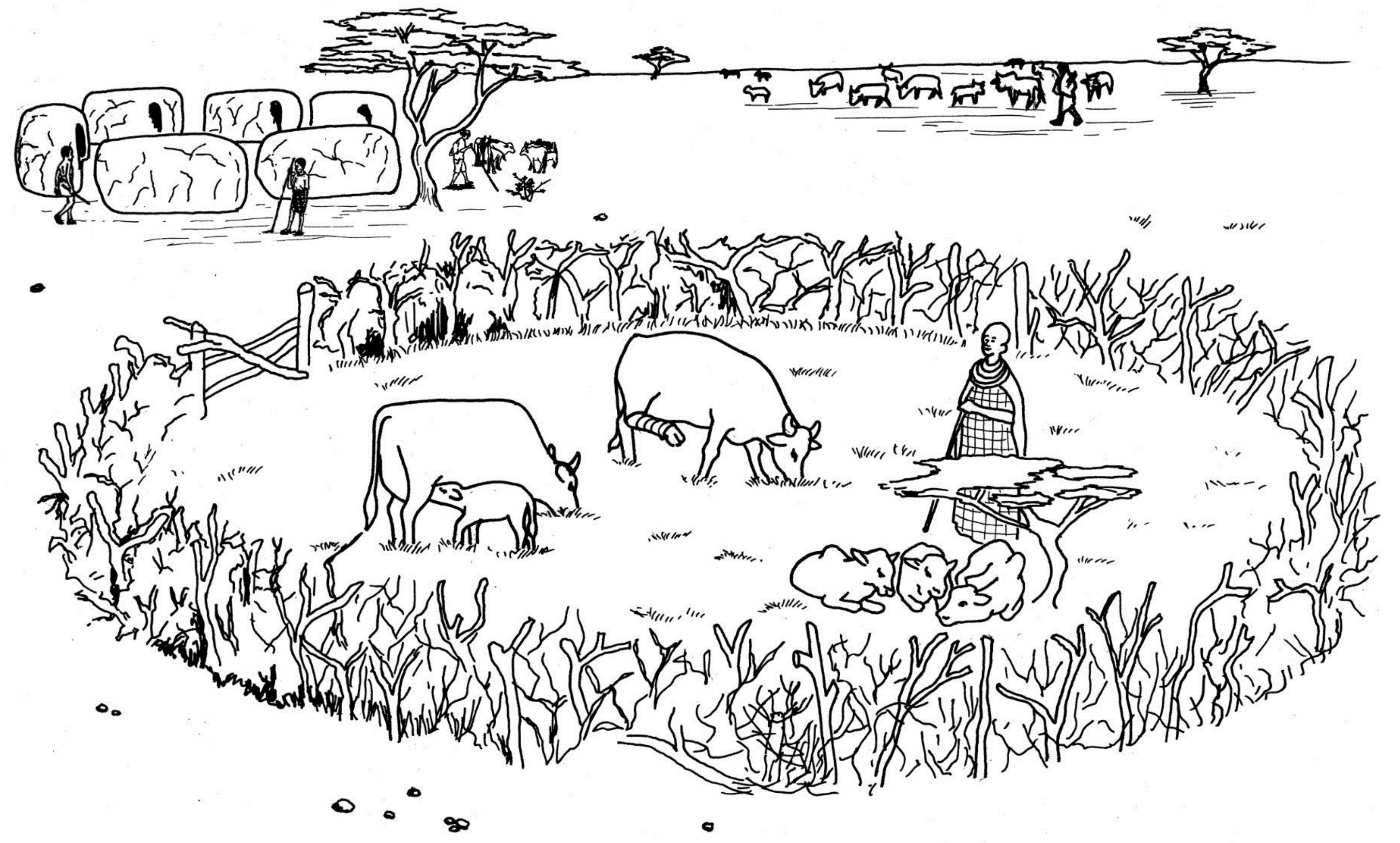
Gender analysis of gender roles and relations in ololili management is necessary to better shape forage improvement initiatives. Gender-responsive initiatives increase technology adoption.

Key results

- Ololili feed the livestock and family in the dry season when men migrate with the herd and women and children stay at home
- Men take decisions about ololili management and women use ololili based on these decisions
- All women and men face financial constraints to buy wood to build and maintain the ololili fence
- Men and women with less social status in the village have difficulty claiming land to establish ololili
- Single women and widows cannot defend their ololili when invaded by neighbors, have less resources to rebuild the fence, have limited rights to claim land for their ololili

Opportunities to invest and scale

- Public investment in forage improvement through Ololili – and other similar systems in East Africa - can provide a sustainable way to enhance dairy productivity
- Public investment in supporting gender-equitable ololili management can help the poorest households support their livestock vis-à-vis increasing droughts
- Public investment in gender-responsive forage improvement initiatives through ololili can help women secure food for their families



Source:

Galiè A. and B. Lukuyu 2016: 'Getting by in the dry season: Ololilis in Tanzania' in Pyburn, R. and Eerdewijk, A. van. (eds), A different kettle of fish? Gender integration in livestock and fish research, Volendam: LM Publishers.

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