

SIMLESA

Sustainable Intensification of Maize-Legume Systems for Food Security in Eastern and Southern Africa

Scaling Improved Feed and Forage technologies at selected ILRI-SIMLESA project locations in Ethiopia and Tanzania

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Introduction

In the mixed crop-livestock farming systems, crop residues have multiple competing uses, including animal feed, soil mulch, fuel, and construction. Due to ever shrinking grazing land, farmers have increasingly relied on crop residues for livestock feeding. This has an important negative implication on the sustainability of the system. Scaling improved forage technologies and feeding practices have the potential not only to provide alternative quality feed resources for the livestock but also to create market opportunities and provide nutritional security for small holders.

Objective

- To provide alternative quality feed resources to reduce the heavy reliance on crop residues (traditional feed resources)
- To increase productivity of livestock through better feeding so as to ensure household nutritional security especially women and children
- To provide alternative income generation options to the crop-livestock farmers through direct fodder sales, livestock and livestock products marketing

Approaches

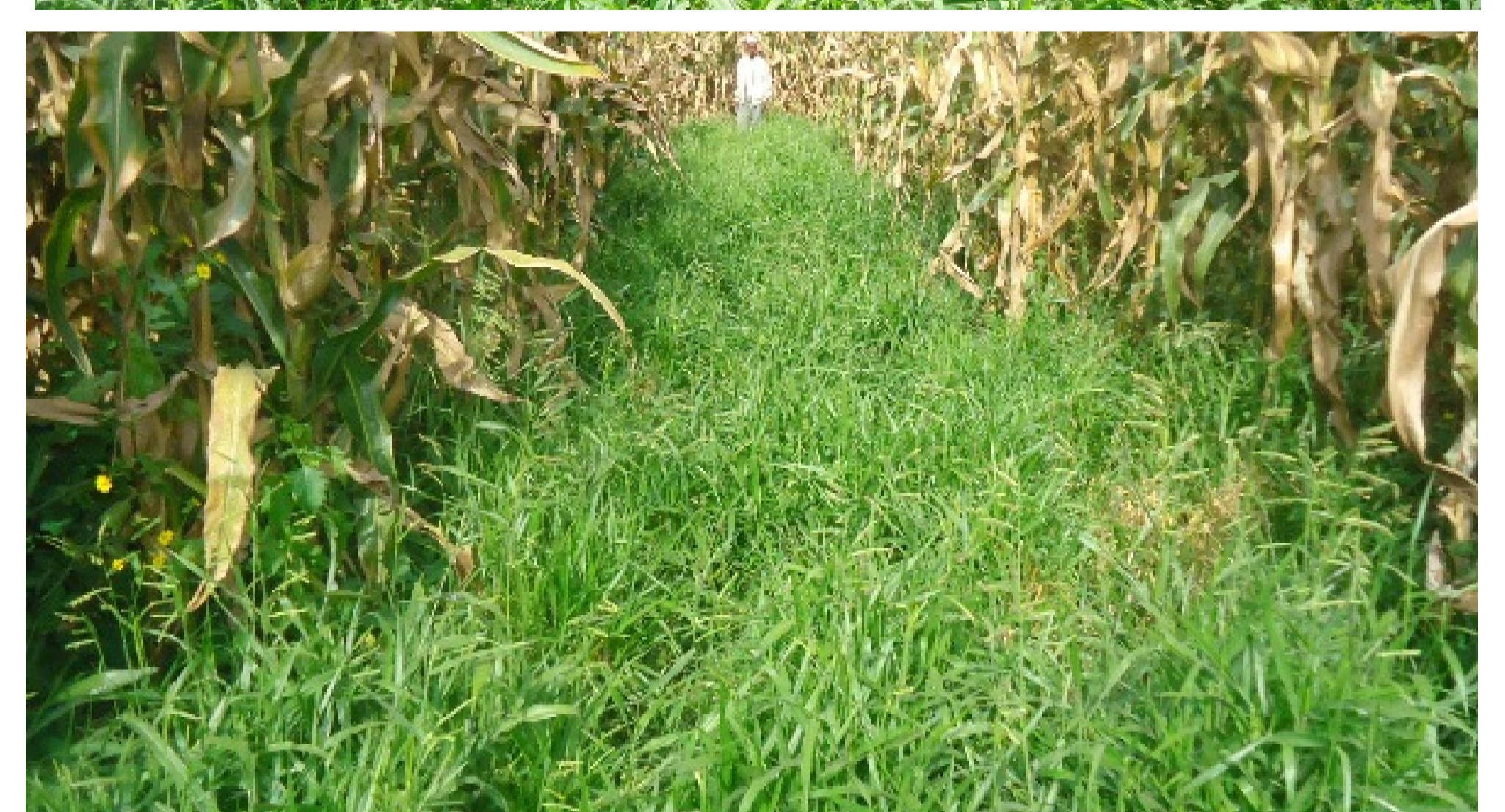
- Engagement with local research and development partners
- Diagnostic studies using quantitative surveys and community engagements
- On-farm validation of promising forage varieties and feeding practices with interested and strategically selected farmers at ILRI-SIMLESA target sites and pre scaling to a wider context
- Capacity building to local experts, farmers and university graduates

Progresses

- In Ethiopia, 288 direct and 1933 indirect beneficiaries participated in forage development on a total of about 37.5 hectares of land in 2016. The numbers are expected to be higher in 2017 crop season.
- In Tanzania, a menu of forage options drawn from Africa RISING project is used for developing scenarios of feeding management decisions through a stakeholder-driven process
- In collaboration with QAAFI, modelling approaches to elaborate the outcomes and trade-offs of different feed allocation and livestock management strategies have been developed

Next Steps

- Inclusion of development partners and private sector for wider scaling
- Link forage development to effective livestock product market system
- Generate evidence of adoption through strong socio-economic study
- Diversify forage options in collaboration with national research institutions



Country	Major Achievements	Future direction
Ethiopia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of participants grow time to time• Farmers willing to allocate even irrigable land for fodder	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased engagement with development partners and private sector• Socio economics of the adopted forages
Tanzania	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Structured study to develop scenarios	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identification of development partners for scaling



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