



A smallholder dairy farmer feeding her dairy cow with Cobra hay during the trial

Context

- Livestock productivity in sub-Saharan Africa remains low, yet livestock play key role in household incomes and nutrition
- Per capita milk consumption is growing in Tanzania and projected to be between 55-100 liters per person per year by 2022
- Poor feeding is the greatest contributor of the dismal animal performance
- Feeding accounts up to 70% of the cost involved in milk production
- Currently, roughages, the main diet comprise of natural grasses and crop residues often low in nutrients especially energy and protein vital for good animal performance
- We set to demonstrate that use of improved forages can increase milk production compared to farmers usual practice in southern highlands of Tanzania .
- We used smallholder dairy cows under their context

Our innovative approach

- Feeding *Brachiaria* hybrid –Cobra to lactating cows and compare to farmers' practice



POVERTY REDUCTION, LIVELIHOODS & JOBS

Feeding improved forages increases milk production in cattle under smallholder farms

- Leads to increased feed intake and minimal forage refusals
- Get better feed conversion efficiency- the animal takes less dry matter and produce more milk compared to natural grass and crop residues
- Milk production increased by 15% when Cobra forage hybrid grass is fed compared to farmer practice (FP)
- When animals are taken back to farmer practice from intervention feeding (IN) , milk production fell by 18%
- Cobra can be fed as green chop or dried hay. Hay can be stored for feeding during dry season or sold for household income

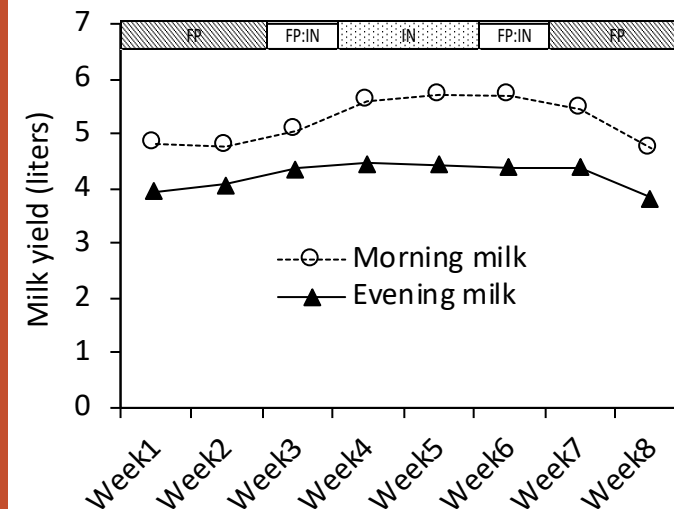


RESEARCH
PROGRAM ON
Livestock

Feeds and Forages

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Outcomes



Future steps

- Awareness creation and dissemination linking with development partners
- Contribute to development and improvement of Tanzania forage seed system involving private and policy makers
- Address challenges that may rise i.e. forage pests and diseases

Partners

- Tanzania Livestock Research Institute
- Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries



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