

Report on Farmers Forage Fieldday- held in Kisii County, Kenya on 19th January 2021



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Alliance



Introduction

As part of the project: *Feed and forage seed business models to support further professionalization of the dairy sector in Kenya and Uganda*, forage field-days is an approach employed to capacity build and improve dairy farmers perception and forage cultivation practice and later follow up on knowledge, attitude and practices change by the dairy producers. In our case, is an approach considered as semi-intensive promotion of forage production. It is an open learning session where farmers come together to learn and share ideas interact and exchange ideas with experts on forages on display. The field day was conducted in Bomachoge Chache sub-county of Kisii in collaboration with Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries.

Specific objectives of field day.

- To learn more about forage grass; varieties, agronomic practices, utilization and conservation.
- To exchange ideas with dairy farmers
- To learn from fellow farmers on good managements practices
- To share ideas and challenges facing farmers
- To observe and appreciate performance of forages from the demonstration plots

Topics covered

- Planting / sowing
- Managing forage crops
- Forage harvesting
- Utilization and conservation

Demonstration plots

The following were the forages were displayed and covers during the field-day

- Brachiaria Cayman
- Brachiaria Cobra
- Brachiaria Sabia
- Lablab
- Chicory
- Sorghum Bargrazer
- Cowpea Glenda
- Panicums Mombasa
- Turnip

Forage fieldday approach

Department of Agriculture Livestock Fisheries & Cooperative Development of and (ALFCD) led on the ground farmer mobilization and advertising the fieldday. To reach the farmers, the livestock officer working in the project firstly used group approach. He contacted officials of 30 different groups whom in turn relayed the message to their members on the date and venue of the fieldday. Secondly, as the area has buying centers for raw tea produced by

farmers, printed posters on forage fieldday, venue and date were put on display for farmers to read and get information. Finally, deliberate effort was made to inform government administration through the area chief.

On the material day, started with farmers registering, sanitizing hands and provided with nose masks as was happening during phase I of covid 19 spike in Kenya. Their consent was requested on taking their registration details as well as taking photos during the field day which was granted. Messaging on need to maintain physical distance were constantly reminded to the attendees. During registration farmers were requested to provide more details regarding their farms including; village they were from, land size they have, number of cows they are keeping, whether they had listened to a radio program on forages aired on March 2020 and finally if they had attended the Forage Seed farmer field School (FSFFS) the project had conducted in the area. On taking farmers through the forages plots they were grouped into cohorts of 20 depending arrival, and the batch visiting manned plots by forage experts from alliance of Bioversity and CIAT and the MoLF. The cohort moved from plot-to-plot until all the plots were visited. After all the groups were through, they gathered around the tent for questions, comments and observations.

Observations made

Farmer's retaliated that they were happy to see the forages which were relatively new to them and they were willing to try them and improve their dairy production. Brachiaria Cayman and Panicums Mombasa were the best performing varieties on the demo plots followed by Sorghum Bargrazer and farmers were happy with them. Although turnip and chicory had done well, the host farmer explained they had matured earlier and had used most to feed the cattle and the reason why limited forage was visible during the fieldday. Farmers wanted to know where they could get the forage seeds and were notified some the seeds are available form ACL which was even attending the field day and some indicated they were willing to buy. In the end 12 farmers bought Cayman seed, and 6 Cobra all packaged in 50 grams. Before departure the farmers indicated were happy and willing to attend if another fieldday was organized to include even more farmers.

Annex 1: The forage fieldday in photos



Farmers *Cayman* Demo plot



Farmers at *Panicum* Mombasa plot



Farmers at Sorghum Bargrazer demo



Sorghum Bargrazer



Cowpea Glendar



Turnip



Brachiaria hybrid Cobra



Chicory intercropped in maize



Advantage Crops Limited (ACL) field officer engaging farmers after visiting forage demo plots on conservation and feeding



Farmers buying forage seeds from ACL after visiting forage demonstration plots

Brachiaria Cayman intercropped with maize in one of the host farmers farm



These farmers opted to borrow splits from host farmers after touring the demonstration to try on their farms

Annex 2

Table 1. List of farmers in attendance and selected characteristics.

Farmer	Gender (male or female)	Village from	Land size (acres)	Number of cows in the farm	Did you listen to livestock forages by Egesa FM radio February 2020 (Yes or No)	Have you undergone the Forage Seed Farmer Field School in Kisii (FSFFS) (Yes or No)	Age (years)
1.	F	OMOBUNO	2	1	YES	NO	53
2.	F	OMOBUNO	3.5	2	YES	NO	42
3.	F	RIOKINDO	2.5	2	YES	NO	55
4.	M	MAGECHE	5	3	YES	NO	50
5.	M	ICHUNI	2.5	4	YES	NO	56
6.	M	ICHUNI	2.5	3	YES	NO	56
7.	M	MOSOBETI	1.5	2	YES	NO	59
8.	M	ITEMBU	2	2	YES	NO	66
9.	M	MOKUBO	0.5	1	NO	NO	32
10.	M	MOSOBETI	0.5	1	YES	NO	55
11.	M	MASENCHE	4	5	YES	NO	33
12.	M	ENDERETI	4	5	YES	NO	78
13.	F	GETUMO	4.5	6	YES	NO	68
14.	F	GETUMO	3.5	1	YES	NO	45
15.	F	RIOMBASA	1	2	YES	NO	58
16.	F	RIOMBASA	1	1	YES	NO	50

17.	M	NYANGETI	2	2	YES	YES	73
18.	M	EBERETI	1	2	YES	NO	46
19.	M	MOKUBA	2	2	NO	NO	57
20.	M	MOKUBO	0.5	1	NO	NO	58
21.	M	BOKIMONGE	2	1	NO	NO	60
22.	M	MOKUBO	4	3	NO	NO	32
23.	M	MOKUBO	2	2	NO	NO	56
24.	F	MOKUBO	0.5	1	NO	NO	45
25.	M	NYAMUSOCHO	3	2	YES	NO	58
26.	M	NYAMUSOSO	2	2	YES	NO	48
27.	M	MAANCHE	0.5	1	YES	NO	35
28.	M	RIRIE	3	3	YES	NO	48
29.	F	MOKUBO	0.5	1	YES	NO	48
30.	F	MOKUBO	1	1	YES	NO	42
31.	M	BOSOTI	2	2	YES	NO	61
32.	M	BOSOTI	0.5	1	YES	NO	64
33.	M	MAGENA	2	1	NO	NO	62
34.	M	IYENGA	1	2	NO	NO	25
35.	M	NDERETI	1	2	NO	NO	45
36.	F	NDERETI	1	1	NO	NO	30
37.	F	NDERETI	1	1	NO	NO	61
38.	M	NDRETI	1	1	NO	NO	31
39.	F	EKANDI	1	3	YES	NO	35
40.	F	EKANDI	1	2	NO	YES	45
41.	M	ENDRETI	1	1	NO	NO	61
42.	M	SENGERA	3	1	NO	NO	70
43.	M	MOKUBO	1	2	NO	NO	36
44.	M	ENDERETI	1		NO	NO	40
45.	M	KENYANYA	1	2	NO	NO	38
46.	M	KENYANYA	2	2	NO	NO	65
47.	M	MAGANA	1	2	NO	NO	38
48.	M	SENTA	0.5	2	YES	NO	56
49.	M	IGEMBE	2	3	YES	NO	48
50.	F	ENDERETI	1	2	YES	NO	75
51.	M	ENDERETI	1	2	YES	NO	93
52.	M	MOKUBO	1.5	2	YES	NO	42
53.	M	MOKUBO	0.5	1	NO	NO	62
54.	F	MOKUBO	2	1	YES	NO	58
55.	F	GETENGA	2	1	YES	NO	50
56.	M	ENDERETI	1.5	3	YES	NO	63
57.	M	MOKUBO	0.25	2	NO	NO	31

58.	M	MAKUBO	1	1	NO	NO	32
59.	M	MAKUBO	0.5	1	YES	NO	32
60.	F	MOKUBO	0.5	1	NO	NO	38
61.	M	KIABUGESI	4	2	NO	NO	68
62.	M	KIABUGESI	3	2		YES	
63.	M	KIABUGESI	2	2	NO	YES	61
64.	M	MUKUBO	10	1	NO	NO	79
65.	F	MUKOBO	2	2	YES	NO	64
66.	F	ENDRETI	3	3	NO	NO	60
67.	M	SENTA	0.5	1	NO	YES	56
69.	F	ENDERETI	0.5	1	NO	NO	53
70.	M	ENDERETI	0.5	2	YES	NO	49
71.	M	SENTA	1	2	NO	NO	40
72.	F	ENDERETI	1	3	NO	NO	61
73.	M	ENDRETI	3	2	NO	NO	54
74.	M	ENDRETI	2	2	NO	NO	68
75.	F	MOTEMOMWAMU	19	1	YES	NO	39
76.	M	MYAMESO	5	2	NO	NO	70
77.	M	KENYENYA	2	2	YES	NO	31
78.	M	MOKUBO	2	1	NO	NO	63
79.	M	SENTA	2	2	YES	NO	68
80.	F	MOTEMOMU	3	3	NO	NO	58
81.	F	ENDERETI	1	2	YES	NO	27
82.	M					NO	31
83.	M	ITEMBU	2	3	YES	NO	36
84.	M	HOMABAY				NO	>40
85.	M	BOOCHI	0.9	2	YES	NO	75
86.	M	SENGERA	2	2	YES	NO	63
87.	M	GESABAA	2.5	2	YES	NO	63
88.	M	NYAKOBA	3	3	YES	NO	61
89.	M	MATONGO	3.5	5	YES	NO	57
90.	M	SUGUTA	3	2	YES	NO	53
91.	M	GESABWA	3	5	YES	NO	60
92.	F	NYAMBUNYU	3		NO	NO	50
93.	M	RITEMBU	2	3	YES	NO	58
94.	M	RETEMBA	0.25	1	YES	NO	51
95.	M	RITEMBU	3	1	YES	NO	59
96.	M	RIOMBASA	1	1	YES	NO	48
97.	F	RIOMBASA	2	1	YES	NO	50
98.	F	RIOMBASA	1	1	YES	NO	45
99.	M	NYABIORE	2	1	YES	NO	56
100.	F	BOSOTI	0.5	1	YES	NO	48

101.	M	BOSOTI	0.5	1	YES	NO	24
102.	M	ENDERETI	0.5	1	YES	NO	68
103.	M	MAGECHE	1	2	NO	NO	42
104.	M	MAGECHE	2	2	YES	NO	60
105.	F	BOSOTI	2	2	YES	NO	48
106.	F	BOSOTI	2	1	YES	NO	50
107.	M	GESABAKWA	1	1	YES	NO	46
108.	M	BOSOTI	0.5	1	YES	NO	44
109.	M	KENYENYE	2	1	YES	NO	50
110.	M	RIYAMBU	2	1.5	YES	NO	66
111.	M	KANYIMBO	1	3	YES	NO	45
112.	M	TEGEMEA	3	1	YES	NO	61
113.	M	ITENGA	3	2	YES	NO	52
114.	M	TEGEMEA	2	1	YES	NO	60

Acknowledgement

We would want to thank farmers who turned up for the fieldday and showed interest in forage cultivation towards improving their dairy production. Equally, we thank Agnes Omweno and Boaz Kimonge staff from department of ALFCD for being resourceful during the fieldday and assisted in sharing forage knowledge with the farmers. Lastly but not least, the project is a consortium of partners helpful in ideas, including ABC, NaLIRRI, ILRI, KIT and private sector seed companies Advanced Crops Limited and Barenbrug Seeds, coordinated by KIT. The project is funded by the Dutch government, NWO-WOTRO.