



CIAT / Nathan Russell

# Introducing FAN, the Forage Africa Network to strengthen collaboration between forage scientists in Africa.

Rosa N. Jauregui<sup>1</sup>; An Notenbaert<sup>1</sup>; Michael Peters<sup>1</sup>; Sawsan Hassan<sup>2</sup>; Rein van der Hoek<sup>1</sup>; Chris S. Jones<sup>3</sup>; Mesfin Dejene<sup>4</sup>; Jonas Kizima<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), Tropical Forages Program, Cali-Colombia. <sup>2</sup>International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), Beirut-Lebanon. <sup>3</sup>International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), Nairobi-Kenya. <sup>4</sup>Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR), Etiopia. <sup>5</sup>Tanzania Livestock Research Institute (TALIRI), Tanzania.

CONTACT: [r.jauregui@cgiar.org](mailto:r.jauregui@cgiar.org)

## Introduction

- ▶ Livestock systems are vital for livelihoods, they contribute to economic and food security stability, providing income, nutrients, and employment opportunities.
- ▶ Livestock systems worldwide are under pressure to become more efficient, more sustainable, and more resilient to climate and other shocks.
- ▶ In Africa, a shortage of quality feed places additional pressure on these systems. This leads to reduced beef and milk production, higher feeding costs, and challenges to the economic and social well-being of livestock producers and their families' food and nutrition security.

## The role of Forages

Forages play a key role in African livestock systems. Not only do they cover the largest area in farming systems, but they also provide key ecosystem services, such as:



Soil erosion prevention



Carbon sequestration



Biodiversity conservation



Water availability and quality

These services make forages vital for sustainable land management and resilience against climate variability. Forages are as diverse as livestock systems and many different research programs exist. These programs share the same overall goal to bring solutions to livestock producers and to help them overcome the many challenges that they face.



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## The origin of FAN

As forage scientists working on forage germplasm selection and breeding for African farming systems, we have come together to form a network of knowledge exchange and collaboration that can leverage our strengths. In this way, we can develop forage options that best suit the needs of farmers across the Continent. The following centers (in alphabetical order) are members of the Forage Africa Network:



Holeta Agricultural Research Center of EIAR



International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics



INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK RESEARCH INSTITUTE



Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique de Tunisie.



Kenya Agricultural & Livestock Research Organization



Regional Center for Crop Improvement (MarCCI)



National Livestock Resources Research Institute (NaLIRRI)



Oromia Agricultural Research Institute  
Sinana Agricultural Research Center



## Learn more

Those who are interested in knowing more about the Forage Africa Network can visit



<https://alliancebioversityciat.org/tools-innovations/forage-africa-network>

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INITIATIVE ON Accelerated Breeding



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