Strategies for improving feed availability in mixed crop-livestock system: Strengthening milk production in semi-arid Kenya

Achievements

- Documentation on surveys on dairy cattle value chain characterisation has been completed. The first report presents cover findings on dairy cattle milk production at smallholder in the semi-arid region of eastern Kenya. The second report examines processing and marketing while the third report analyses consumption of milk and milk products within the rural and urban centres within the same region.
- Three feedback workshops were held with dairy cattle milk producers and one for the processors and marketers of milk and milk products. During the workshops constraints were prioritised and opportunities identified. These will form the research agenda or activities for the next financial year.
- Relevant data and information is being collected from ongoing experiments on evaluation of drought tolerant giant panicum ecotypes for livestock feeds at different agro-ecological zones within the semi-arid mid altitude of eastern Kenya.
- Relevant data and information is being collected from ongoing experiments on evaluation of stay green maize with high quality for livestock feed at different agro-ecological zones in the semi-arid region of eastern Kenya.
- 80 farmers participated on a farmer/exchange tour in Githunguri district and toured Fleckvieh Genetic (East Africa) Limited in Nairobi. During the visit, farmers were trained on silage making and management of dairy cattle and lectured on basic breeding skills.
- About 500 farmers have been trained on silage making using polythene bags and making hay using hand made box.