Participatory evaluation of *Urochloa* and *Megathyrsus* forage species in western Kenya: Farmers perspective

**INTRODUCTION**

- Among the most prevalent constraint to increased productivity is limited forage quality and quantity throughout the year.
- Napier stunting disease, which suppresses forage production from Napier grass, the most prevalent cultivated forage in western Kenya, exacerbates this.
- To contribute to addressing the problem, we selected several hybrids/cultivars of *Urochloa* and *Megathyrsus* and grown by several farmer groups in Kakamega, Busia, Bungoma and Siaya counties in western Kenya.
- To rate the forages, we guided farmers to generating criteria by each group on parameters/attributes they consider ideal for a forage to possess. On a scale of 1–9, farmers scored on the way they perceive each criterion with the higher the score the more relevance it carries.

**Results**

- On forage types considering their popularity in ranking across the counties, we had Cayman, Xaraes, Cobra Piata and MG4 as the most highly scored by all farmers. across the counties thus considered as the most preferred by farmers.
- These materials therefore, stand good adoption chance in the area. These forages can be either propagated through seeds or vegetative, and the farmers’ production experience with other forages especially Napier grass, would equally benefit growing these forages.
- The approach was found best for the identification of high yield, palatable, high biomass, pest and disease tolerance and adaptability to the environment.

**Acknowledgements**

We are greatly thankful to our partners SED A COW who made this possible through their field staff and farmers groups, and to our farmers for donating land, monitoring and taking care of the demo plots, and actually owning them.

**References**
