



**KCSAP COLLABORATIVE APPLIED RESEARCH GRANTS  
AWARDED PROPOSALS**

<b>SECTION 1: LEAD INSTITUTION AND PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (PI) PARTICULARS</b>			
<b>1.1</b>	<b>LEAD INSTITUTION:</b>	Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO)	
<b>1.2</b>	Principle Investigator:	Name: Ann Indetie	
<b>1.3</b>	Mailing Address:	P.O Box 3840-20100 Lanet	
<b>1.4</b>	E-Mail Address:	Indetie2001@gmail.com	
<b>1.5</b>	Collaborators and their affiliate Institutions		
	KEPHIS Seed Companies Seed Traders Respective Counties		
<b>SECTION 2: PROJECT PARTICULARS</b>			
<b>2.1</b>	<b>PROJECT No. &amp; TITLE:</b>	SS02/1/9 Pasture and seed germplasm multiplication	
<b>2.2</b>	KCSAP Livestock Value Chain (i.e. Dairy, Red Meat, Indigenous Chicken, Apiculture, Aquaculture including Animal Health and Pastures and Fodder:	Livestock	
<b>2.3</b>	Value Chain:	Pastures and Fodder:	
<b>2.4</b>	Location (Area)	KALRO	
	Date of Commencement:	Expected Date of Completion:	Total Duration in Months:
			24 months
<b>2.6</b>	Total Cost of the Project (KES):	<b>6,513,000</b>	
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Executive Summary</b>	<p>One of the major challenges for increasing livestock productivity is the lack of enough high quality livestock feed, especially during the dry season .to address this, integrating more planted forages in the farming system is a promising solution. However, forage coverage at the farm level still remain low owing to various reasons including availability of forage seed/planting materials. Improve forage seed availability comprise formal and informal channels. the formal channel relates to forage seeds that undergo and attain regulations by Kenya plant health inspectorate services(KPHIS) and private sector/companies licensed to trade the approved varieties. The process entail two main activities (a)National Performance Trial (NPT) and (b) Distinctiveness, Uniformity and Stability (DUS) testes. The NPT involves planting the</p>	

		<p>species suggested for release in the areas expected to adopt, and conducting scientifically randomized trials by KEPHIS for at least two seasons. The DUS test conducted by KEPHIS to confirm the descriptor of the particular variety, i.e. Distinctiveness, Uniformity and stability. In this write up we target the approaches used in breeding key grasses and fodder that can be used in ASAL areas of Kenya where beef is the main economic enterprises but is hard hit by the climate change. It is also not worth that the ASALs of Kenya which cover 80% of the land mass and carries 14millions beef cattle out of 17millions cattle numbers of Kenya. The focus on pasture and fodder seed system is of great importance for this areas to avail planting materials to contribute to food and reduce environmental impact of livestock agriculture. KALRO Lanet has focused its research of pasture breeding programme on the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) 3Brachiaria grass varieties namely L1, B1 and K1.</li> <li>(b) 5fodder sorghum varieties namely E6518, Ikinyaruka, BJ28, E1291 and BM30</li> <li>(c)1 Rhode grass variety, Lanet Rhodes</li> <li>(d)3 sweet potato vine namely, Wagabolige, Maroko, and K158</li> </ul> <p>The Brachiaria seed industry in Kenya is at a very low scale. The Brachiaria grass is rapidly becoming popular for livestock production in Kenya specifically in ASAL areas. However, seed availability is limiting in the expansion of these grass. This has led to Kenya importing seeds from other countries like Brazil at a very expensive price of \$1000 per kilo. The three varieties identified at KALRO Lanet are widely adaptable in Kenya and have good seed quality in terms of pure live seed with a germination ranging from 70% to 90%. To avoid expensive imports of Brachiaria seed and sorghum fodders, it is prudent to bulk and package for easy dissemination to the livestock farmers.</p>
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