Maasai Pastoralists’ livelihoods threatened: The case of Pastoralist Field Schools in controlling *Ipomoea spp* in Kajiado County, Kenya

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Southern Rangelands of the Rift Valley (Over 21,000 sq Km)
Pastoralist Field School (PFS)

Approach was developed by FAO
Implemented in Kenya since early 1990s

Purpose

• To improve the decision-making capacity of participants and their wider communities and to stimulate local innovation.
  – Introduce new technological innovations while building on indigenous knowledge.
  – Pastoralists learn how to analyse their situation and make informed decisions about their livelihood practices and resource use strategies.
A SCHOOL WITHOUT WALLS
A PFS comprises a group of 25 - 30 pastoralists (including elders, men, women and youth)
FEMALE PFS MEMBER AND AREA CHIEF CUTTING HAY USING A BRUSH CUTTER

“If I hear it I forget it
If I see it I remember it,
If I discover it I can own it for life”
HOW?

- Technical staff trained on PFS approach for 3 weeks
- Interested community members formed groups
- Trained on governance issues
- Weekly topics facilitated by respective officers both government and NGOs through experiential learning
- Demonstrations, exposure visits
- Continuous monitoring
MAPPING OF MOST VULNERABLE SITES
Community mobilization

Men, Women and Youth
GROUP FORMATION WITH GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

Formally registered group
PASTURE ESTABLISMENT DEMO
Soil and Water Conservation demo
CHISEL PLOUGHING ON PFS DEMO PLOTS

Breaking the hard pan
EXTENSIVE LIVESTOCK EXPO-NAIROBI
FARMERS TOUR TO MAKUENI COUNTY
FARMERS EDUCATIONAL TOUR A RANGE RESEARCH INSTITUTE
POSTERS

"OPERATION NG’OA IPOMOEA"

Pamoja Tung’oe
Olbeneyo, Oltimaleshi, Oltiameleteti ama Ipomoea.
Ili Tuboreshe Malisho ya Mifugo Yetu.

Ng’ombe Ni Mali.
“Fuga Ng’ombe Chache, Kwa Acre Moja”

1. Fence & Paddock
2. ?
3. ?

TUNATAKA MIEUGO KAMA HILI!

Agricultural Sector Development Support Programme (ASDSP)
Kajiado County Offices
P.O. Box 649, Kajiado, Tel: 020-5510400, 0716557313
Email: info@asdp.kajiado.co.ke, info@asdp.kajiado.gov.kg
www.asdsp.kajiado.co.ke
After losing over 30 animals to drought this pastoralist accepted to fence over 100 acres of his farm. He was the only one who did not move his animals in the last years drought.
Ipomoea Weed
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUB-COUNTY</th>
<th>AREA (Sq Km)</th>
<th>AREA (Acres)</th>
<th>% INVASION</th>
<th>AREA INVADED (Acres)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kajiado Central</td>
<td>4,212.60</td>
<td>1,040,956.13</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>624,574</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kajiado East</td>
<td>2,610.30</td>
<td>645,019.18</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>258,008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kajiado North</td>
<td>148.00</td>
<td>36,571.60</td>
<td>Negligible</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kajiado South</td>
<td>6,411.00</td>
<td>1,584,192.60</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>158,419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kajiado West</td>
<td>8,397.50</td>
<td>2,075,067.44</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>415,013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>21,779.40</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,381,806.95</strong></td>
<td><strong>27%</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,456,014.10</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Spent over $1000 labour costs to uproot the weed in 50 acres
School children uprooting the weed
Women uprooting the weed
A Pastoralist uprooting the weed on his farm
IPOMOEA FREE FARM FOR ONE MEMBER

Transforming the Agriculture Sector in Kajiado County
PASTURE IN DUKA MOJA - ILDAMAT
Chisel ploughed area with native grass species that had not been seen for over 20 years
NARETOI GROUP MEMBERS
ADMIRING THEIR PASTURE PLOT
Natural Pature field after Chisel Ploughing
Portable Grass Cutter
Mama Agnes using the grass cutter
Manual Hay baling demonstration
ALL MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN HAY BARN CONSTRUCTION
HAY BARN UNDER CONSTRUCTION-OWN INITIATIVE
Challenges

• Weather – not within our control
• Men not available during dry season - migrate
• Operations need to be done at the right time
• Availability of farm inputs and equipment when needed
• Animals jumping in to demo plots and grazing
Opportunities

• Pastoralists love their animals
• Willingness by pastoralists to learn
• Devolution and decentralization of services
• Research opportunity – economic uses, biological control, others-----
• Environment /Livestock friendly herbicide???
• We are ready for collaboration work on this
Black Hairless caterpillar feeding on ipomoea
FUTURE

• National strategy on conservation of rangeland
• Institutionalization of the approach in our extension services
• Allocating funds in the budget for sustainability

1. Capacity building!
2. Capacity building!
3. Capacity building!

SUSTAINED MILK AND BEEF VALUE CHAIN
(OUR LIVELIHOOD)
Threats

A new weed — Mt. Kilimanjaro at the background
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

KAJIADO PASTORALISTS
Any Questions?

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