



Figure 1: Box plot showing (a) crude protein (DM%) and (b) metabolizable energy (ME) (MJ/kg) ; n=470

The challenge

- Low livestock productivity amongst smallholders mainly constrained by **seasonal, inadequate and poor-quality feeding**.
- There is a **lack of focus on crop residues** despite their importance and potential as a feed resource.
- The **quality and volumes of traded fodder** is unknown.
- There is a lack of nutrition information to compound feeds locally and promote utilisation.

Our innovative approach

- Developing a better understand of the feeding opportunities and challenges facing dairy cooperatives.
- Conducted a **fodder markets study** to understand the rice straw marketing chain and explore potential linkages to dairy cooperatives.
- **Assessments of rice straw fodder quality traits** (nutritional and farmer preferences)
- Developing a **feed quality database** of common local feeds to support feed utilisation using the On-farm Feed Advisor (OFA) App.
- Providing technical information to support **broader dissemination/ promotion** of feed interventions to farmers



INITIATIVE ON
Sustainable Animal
Productivity

Facilitating access to and supply of feed through dairy cooperatives to enhance livestock productivity in Kenya

- Linkages to fodder markets to bridge feed gaps
- Generate nutritional data of common feeds to support feed utilization
- Strengthen dairy farmers capacities to take up 'knowledge-intensive' technologies



Baling rice straw in Mwea Irrigation Scheme. (Photo: B.Lukuyu/ILRI)

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Progress

- Feed challenges facing dairy cooperatives are documented.
- The fodder markets value chain in *Mwea* rice irrigation scheme have been mapped.
- Nutritional database of common feeds to customise OFA assembled.
- A total of 470 feed samples analysed (Figure 1a and b) (left)

Next steps

- Conduct an in-depth study to understand the **rice straw marketing chain**, its functioning, role of different actors, gender implications etc
- **Assessing gendered rice straw attributes** preferred by farmers
- Determine nutrient quality of different rice varieties and explore prices/quality relationships.
- Customise and pilot the use of OFA application by Dairy Farmer Assistants (DFAs)
- Continuous development of nutritional profiling of feed stuffs using NIRS.

Partners

