

Context

- **Forage Quality:** The quality of forage, such as grasses and legumes, can significantly impact dairy animal nutrition. There is a need to further study how to improve the quality and availability of forage, especially in regions with changing climates.
- **Feed Efficiency:** Maximizing feed efficiency to reduce the ecological footprint of dairy production is a challenging area of research. Understanding how to produce more milk with fewer resources is a knowledge gap.

Our innovative approach

- **Access to Quality Seeds:** Ensure farmers have access to high-quality forage seeds. This may involve setting up seed banks or promoting the production of forage seeds by research institutions.
- **Value Addition:** Promote value addition to forage products, such as haymaking and silage production, to ensure a year-round supply of nutritious forage for livestock especially during dry seasons.
- **Climate-Resilient Varieties:** Promote the use of forage varieties that are adapted to the local climate and resistant to drought and pests.

On farm training - Demonstration Plot
Management practice; thinning of forage grass in Kakamega County, western Kenya



INITIATIVE ON
Livestock and Climate

Capacity development and scaling approaches for increased forage adoption in western Kenya

- Through capacity development and scaling approaches, western Kenya can increase forage adoption, leading to improved livestock productivity, food security and sustainable agricultural practices in the region.
- Peer farmer or farmer to Farmer trainer has been one of the most effective means of capacity development, farmers trust their locals and fellow farmers
- Passing on the gift is a strategy by Ripple effect one of our partners which has enable us reach numbers in scaling up it involves each beneficiary farmer to give 2-3 farmers splits.
- **Community engagements** - involving local communities in decision making, processes related to forage development .Their buy in and active participation are critical for long term success

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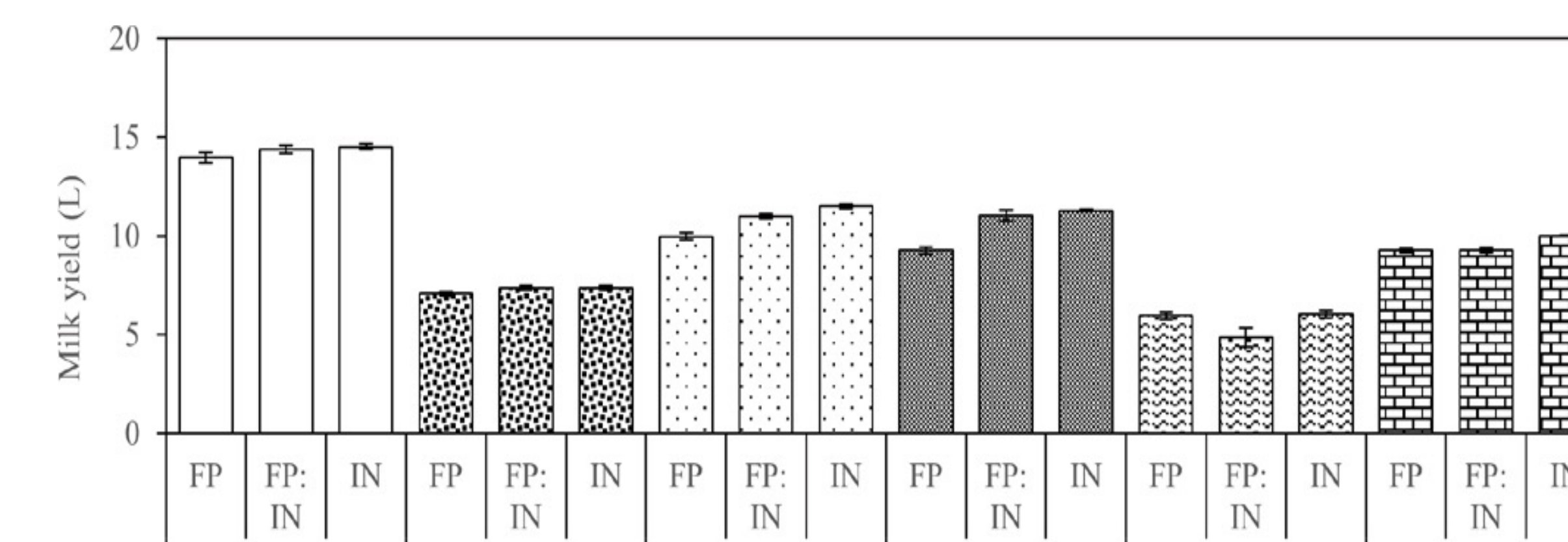
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Progress/outcomes



Mean (\pm se) of milk production (liters) for six lactating cows under farmers' practice (FP), 50:50 of FP and intervention (FP:IN) and intervention alone (IN) in Tanzania.

- Through proper improved forage feeding farmers have realized up to 15% milk increment in Busia Kenya like data collected in Tanzania as shown above .
- We are partnering with Ripple Effect and Ministry of Livestock and Agriculture and as the project is almost ending the ministry of agriculture will continue with extension work and promotion of improved forage.



Demonstration of forage grass harvesting with one of the farmers group in Bungoma county

Photo credit: Ruth Odhiambo



Ministry of Agriculture & Livestock Development

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