Food security

Enhancing Livestock Production to support vulnerable populations in Kenya affected by volatile food prices

“Thanks to the project we are able to produce silage which increases our milk yield in the dry season. Not only do we get more milk when the prices are highest, there is also less wastage as we have learned how to handle, store and transport our milk in a more hygienic manner.”

Farmers in Njoro

Context

The project is part of a global food facility project funded by the European Union in response to the soaring food prices of 2008 / 2009. The project was designed to support livestock derived food production in both the dry lands (which constitute 80% of the country) and the higher rainfall areas of the Rift Valley. The predominant form of livestock production in the Rift Valley is small holder dairy production which, despite high rainfall averages is plagued by increasing levels of poverty. The primary reasons for this are a) decreasing parcels of land for dairy production (as land is increasingly subdivided) and b) poor access to education and extension services.

Objectives

- To improve health nutritional status and value of pastoral livestock
- To improve profitability of targeted small holder dairy units
- To strengthen livestock markets in pastoral and small scale dairy production areas

Impact

- Reduction in milk rejection by the cooperative society from 30% - 8% thus increasing profitability
- About 1.2 million people listened to the radio broadcast each week
- Increased Artificial Insemination (AI) use, improved use of fodder and higher demand for extension services
- Improved breed and milk management
- Farmers have learnt to make silage thus improving animal feed.

For more information:
http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/finance/food-facility_en.htm
Testimony of Isaac Kibet Ng’etich

I have benefitted from this programme in two ways:

First: After listening to the radio program and seeing a demonstration of a chaff cutter I decided to make one of my own. Now I am able to cut enough grass for my animals and sell what is left.

Secondly: We almost lost money before the programme as we were about to sell a cow at Ksh 17,000 (EURO 133) but through the radio training we were taught how to use a weigh band to estimate the weight of cattle. After this I was able to negotiate better prices with the traders and managed to sell the cow at Ksh 30,000 (EURO 235). For me, the Ksh 100 I invested in the course is the best Ksh 100 I have ever spent.