



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Volunteer Name: Gary Ruegsegger

Country: Kenya

Country project: Dairy Nutrition, fodder establishment and fodder preservation

Host: Kapcheno Multi-purpose Company Limited

Venue: Nandi County Milk Sheds

Audience: Farmers and Dairy Extension

Number of people : ~120

Date: January 11 to January 29, 2016





1. Assignment Objectives as in SOW

Taught and encouraged (~120) members, local farmers and extension officers of the Kapcheno Multi-purpose Company Limited on how to improve dairy livestock nutrition by focusing on better forage quality feeding in the 9 milk shed areas.

2. Achievement of the assignment objectives

- This was accomplished through farm visits, group meetings with flipcharts, handout review & visual demonstrations of different forage qualities.
- Dispelled the belief that dairy cattle genetics is the limiting factor to their milk production by showing photos of Kenyan high producing milking cows.

GOOD GENETICS ARE HERE



2. Achievement of the assignment objectives

- And illustrating examples of increased milk production and profitability by feeding a fertilized Boma Rhodes pasture with and without dairy concentrate meal.
- Discussed the importance of treating the dairy enterprise as a small business with large investments in cattle.

2. Achievement of the assignment objectives

- Reviewed how to calculate Return Over Feed Costs.
- How do you pay for improvements to produce higher quality forages? I heard alot “We have no money?” Encouraged farmers to start small - save \$30 Kshs/day (one less soda) & in 6 months you will have \$5,475 Kshs to start.

2. Achievement of the assignment objectives

- Stressed the importance of proper calf and heifer management and feeding.
- Discussed proper hay & ensiling procedures - showed samples of each.
- Had a one day dairy nutrition and forage management seminar for additional training for extension officers -they are the teachers!!

3. Recommendations to Kapcheno Multi-purpose Comapany Limited with regards to the assignment

Extension is the key to helping dairyman improve their forages and forage management. They need more support!



3. Recommendations to Kapcheno Multi-purpose Comapany Limited with regards to the assignment

- Additional training for extension staff in dairy nutrition, forage management and forage preservation (hay or silage).
- Contract hire someone local like Johnstone Kipketer Sigei for training extension staff and Community facilitators – Johnstone is the best trained, highly motivated person I met, and he has a lot of practical experience.

3. Recommendations to Kapcheno Multi-purpose Comapany Limited with regards to the assignment

- Purchase one motorcycle available for extension staff to travel out to see farmers in order to get around easier in the field.
- Have one computer for extension staff to use so that they can access information for their farmers and keep up on technology to share with them.

3. Recommendations to Kapcheno Multi-purpose Comapany Limited with regards to the assignment

- Establish grass demonstration plots for farmers to see the production and quality differences of Napier grass and Boma Rhodes grass with fertilizer (manure and/or chemical) at different cutting intervals. Farmers need to see the differences! There is a .5 acre plot near the collection center in Kaptumo.

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Demonstration grass plots design

Fertilized at 110 kgs of Calcium Ammonium Nitrogen/acre or 2,727 kgs of manure/acre with a fenced in area with 4X4 meter plots

Boma Rhodes	Boma Rhodes	Boma Rhodes	Boma Rhodes	Kukuyo
No fertilizer	Manure (10.0 kg)	Fertilizer (0.35 kg)	Fertilizer (0.35 kg)	No fertilizer
10 week cut	10 week cut	10 week cut	8 week cut	10 week cut
Napier Grass	Napier Grass	Napier Grass	Napier Grass	Kukuyo
No Fertilizer	Fertilizer (0.35 kg)	Fertilizer (0.35 kg)	Manure (10.0 kg)	Fertilizer (0.35 kg)
10 week cut	10 week cut	6 week cut	6 week cut	10 week cut

3. Recommendations to Kapcheno Multi-purpose Company Limited

- Have field days once the grass plots have been established and cut once.
- Train farmers in basic business principles and simple record keeping.
- Encourage farmers to save money for forage improvements, and help them to set up systems to save monies.

- **3. Recommendations to Kapcheno Multi-purpose Company Limited**

- Have more field days with farmers, at least two per year.



3. Recommendations to Kapcheno Multi-purpose Company Limited

- For the field days, have grass seed companies and other dairy support businesses donate goods – and use the raffles gifts to promote attendance.



Beyond assignment recommendations to the Kapcheno Board of Directors

BEYOND ASSIGNMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Have the manager along with one director put their boots on and go out a half day per week to visit key farmers in each milk shed area in order to restore confidence & trust in Kapcheno.

Beyond assignment recommendations to the Kapcheno Board of Directors

- Need to restore trust back in to Kapcheno Dairy Company by having an Annual General Meeting here in the next 2 months, and present to the members the 2015 Annual Report with audited Financial statements..... the farmers are looking for transparency & honesty in Kapcheno Company Ltd.

Farmers are eager and ready to come back - but want stability in Kapcheno



4. Anticipated Impact

- Farmers will become more serious about dairying (it is more of a hobby attitude and not a business) & increase milk production per cow by feeding better quality forages to increase profitability. Training in basic business and book keeping concepts will make them better business men and women.

5. Recommended future volunteer Assistance

- A 4 week education program with extension staff and community facilitators – need to provide more intensive education to the ones who will train the farmers. This can be accomplished in the field, using the grass experimental plots, visiting farmers and classroom teaching.

5. Recommended future volunteer Assistance

The goal would be to have a well trained extension staff and knowledgeable community facilitators in dairy cattle nutrition, forage production and management for the rainy season & dry season. Together, the extension staff and the volunteer would write practical training manuals.

5. Recommended future volunteer Assistance

- A volunteer to provide basic record keeping skills and business skill training for the community facilitators and to train an extension officer to continue the teaching once the volunteer has left. A minimum of 2 weeks would be required for this training.

6. Recommendations to other non-host stakeholders

- Collaborate with grass seed companies and other dairy support businesses to provide goods to give away as raffle prizes .
- Work with other groups, such as "Single and Widowed Women's groups" to assist them in Dairy Cattle Nutrition and management – they are eager to learn.

Action plan for host recommendations

Recommendation	Specific Action	Responsible person	By when
1. Develop demonstration grass plots	Plant and manage Boma Rhodes & Napier grass plots as illustrated	Extension officer along with Community Facilitators	Within the next 2 months
2. Forage field days with farmers	Choose farms with quality forage programs and hold a field day at their farm	Extension officer along with Community Facilitators	ASAP
3. Forage conservation for the dry season	Provide forage conservation training to farmers to prepare for the dry season	Extension officer along with Community Facilitators	In the months of September, October and November
4. Kapcheno Annual General Meeting (AGM) with 2015 report	Have an AGM to present the 2015 Financial statements and the future vision for Kapcheno	Management and Board	Within the next two months
5. Dairy peer group meetings 4 times a year	Assist farmers in setting up dairy peer groups in their respective milk shed areas	Manager and Community Facilitators	ASAP
6.			



7. How can CRS improve future volunteer experience





Thank You!

