# Project Dissemination and Outreach

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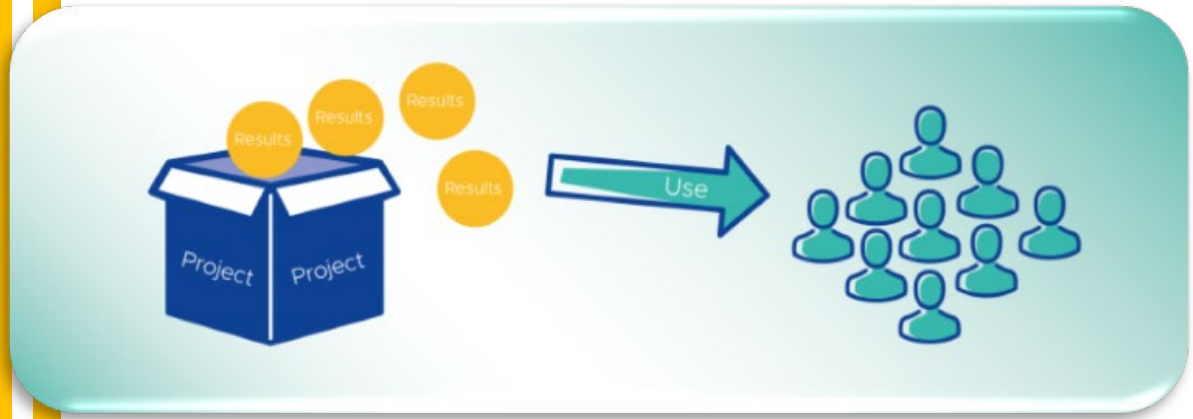
**InnovAfrica Project Final Conference**
**12-13 October 2021**

INNOVAFRICA
Food security through smallholder adaptability

European Commission
Horizon 2020
European Union funding for Research & Innovation

**Objective:** To facilitate wider dissemination of project results to targeted groups

## Strategic planning of Dissemination activities




**Stakeholders groups**

**Group-1**

**Smallholders**, Women, Farmer organizations

**Group-2**

Policymakers, **Politicians**, Government agencies

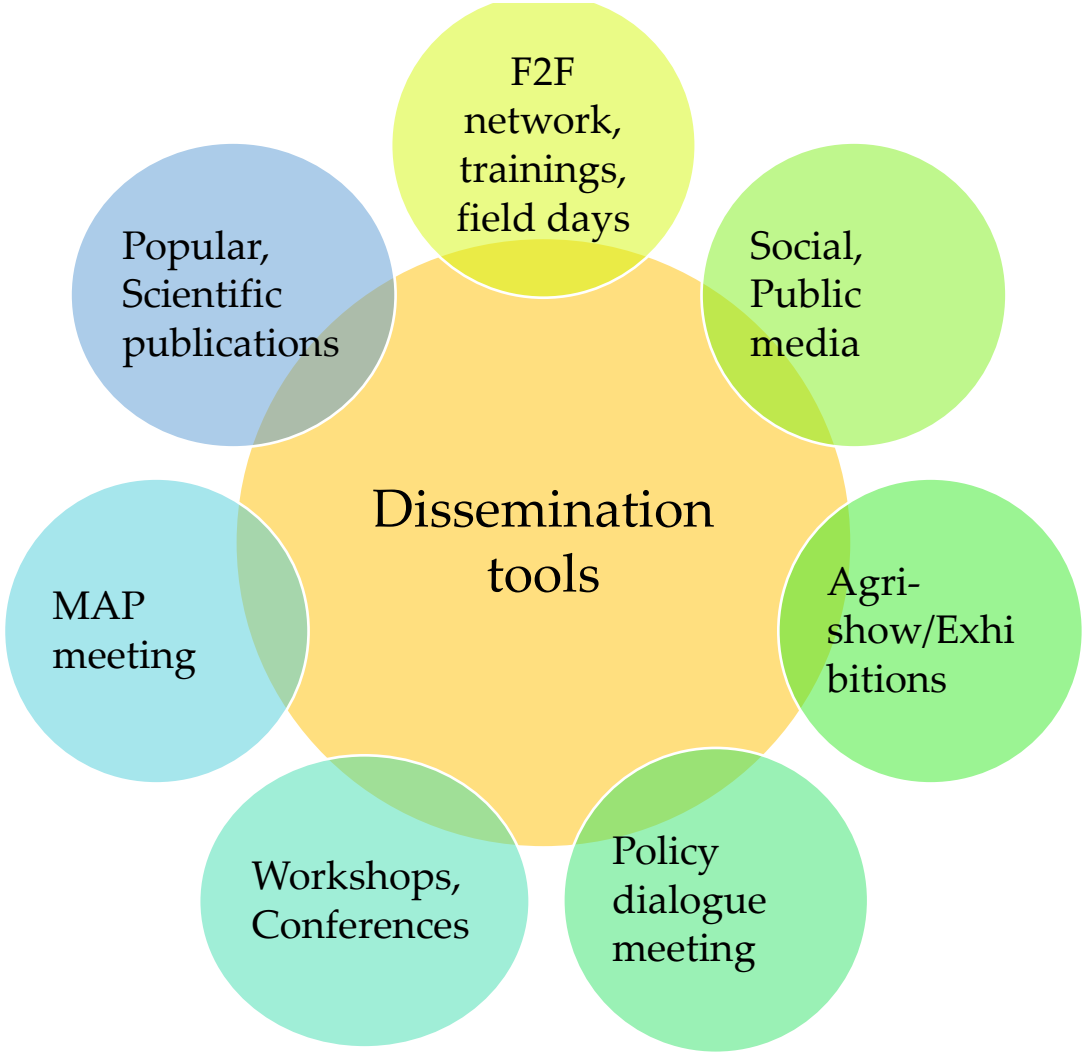
**Group-3**

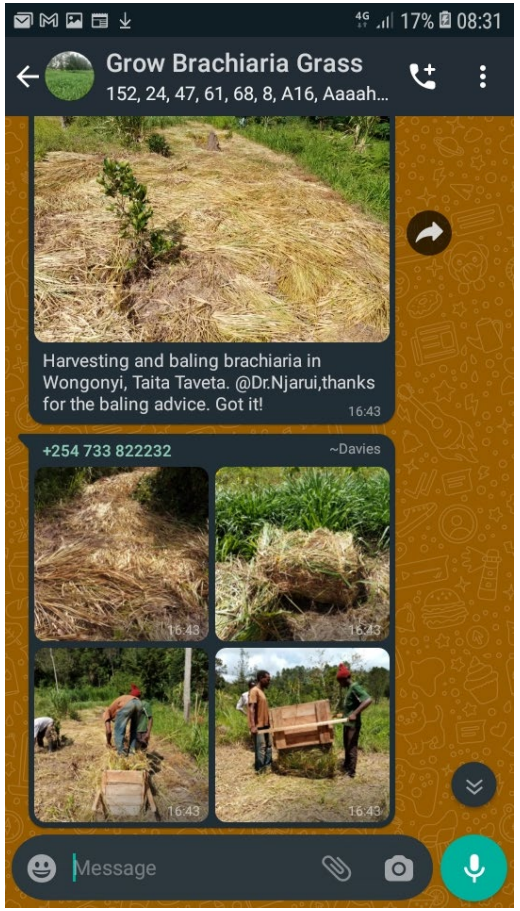
**Scientific community**, Development agencies, NGOs

**Group-4**

**Media**, Civil Society, Society at large

# Dissemination tools/channels




Screenshot from WhatsApp on baling of *Brachiaria* grass

# *Dissemination Activities (June 2017-October 2021)*

Trainings, Demos, Field days
Groups- 1, 3
103+

Workshops, Conferences, Meetings, Events
Groups-1, 2, 3
157+

Popular publications
Groups- 1, 2
67

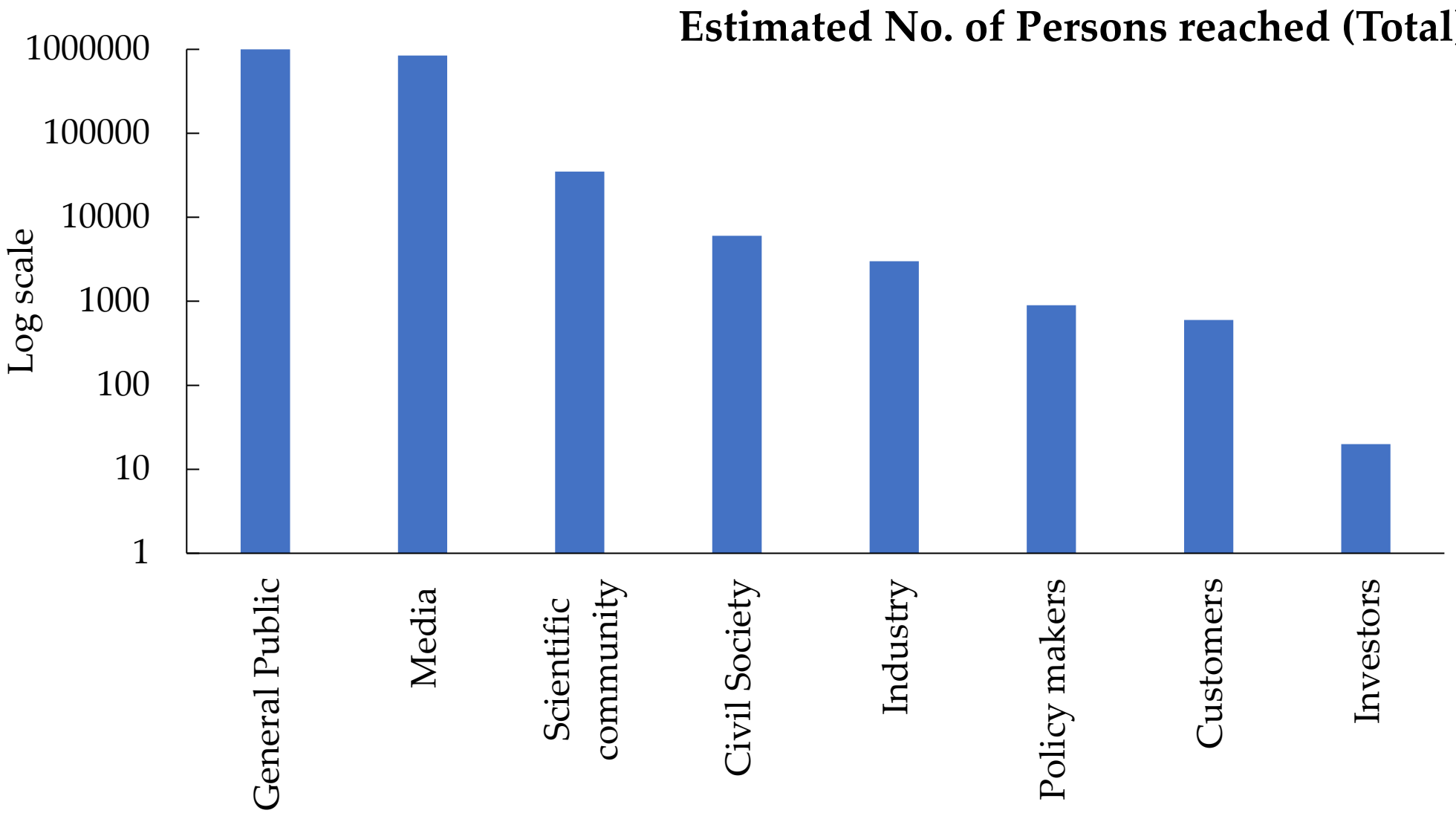
Social media, public media
Groups- 1, 2, 4
100+

Scientific publications
Group-3
20

Videos/Exhibitions, Agri.shows
Groups-1, 2, 4
26

Farmers sharing practises/knowledge on fermented compost making (*bokashi)* at SFHC, Malawi

# InnovAfrica Outreach




**Farmers (Men & Women) reached through EASs (F2FE, VKC, PIP) : 60,000+**

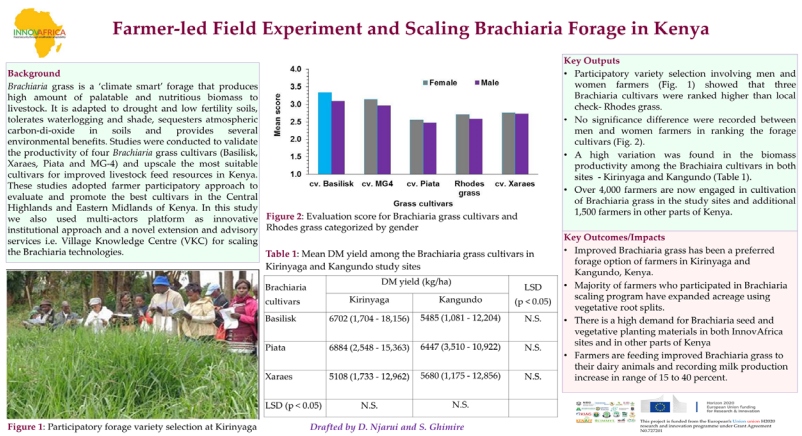
*Dissemination products (e.g.)*


INNOVAFRICA UPDATES AND ACHIEVEMENTS


'Clearing the air': common drivers of climate-smart smallholder food production in Eastern and Southern Africa

Giacomo Branca *, Chiara Perelli

*Tuscia University - Department of Economics, Engineering, Society and Business Organization (DEIM), Via del Paradiso 47, 01100, Viterbo, Italy*



**Farmer-led Field Experiment and Scaling Brachiaria Forage in Kenya**

**Background**

*Brachiaria* grass is a 'climate smart' forage that produces high amount of palatable and nutritious biomass to livestock. It is adapted to drought and low fertility soils, tolerates waterlogging and shade, sequesters atmospheric carbon-di-oxide in soils and provides several environmental benefits. Studies were conducted to validate the productivity of four *Brachiaria* grass cultivars (Basilisk, Xaraes, Piata and MG-4) and upscale the most suitable cultivars for improved livestock feed resources in Kenya. These studies adopted farmer participatory approach to evaluate and promote the best cultivars in the Central Highlands and Eastern Midlands of Kenya. In this study we also used multi-actors platform as innovative institutional approach and a novel extension and advisory services i.e. Village Knowledge Centre (VKC) for scaling the Brachiaria technologies.



**Figure 1:** Participatory forage variety selection at Kirinyaga




**Figure 2:** Evaluation score for Brachiaria grass cultivars and Rhodes grass categorized by gender

**Table 1:** Mean DM yield among the Brachiaria grass cultivars in Kirinyaga and Kangundo study sites

| Brachiaria cultivars | DM yield (kg/ha) | | LSD ($p < 0.05$) |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Kirinyaga | Kangundo | |
| Basilisk | 6702 (1,704 - 18,156) | 5485 (1,081 - 12,204) | N.S. |
| Piata | 6884 (2,548 - 15,363) | 6447 (3,510 - 10,922) | N.S. |
| Xaraes | 5108 (1,733 - 12,962) | 5680 (1,175 - 12,856) | N.S. |
| LSD ($p < 0.05$) | N.S. | N.S. | |

*Drafted by D. Njarui and S. Ghimire*

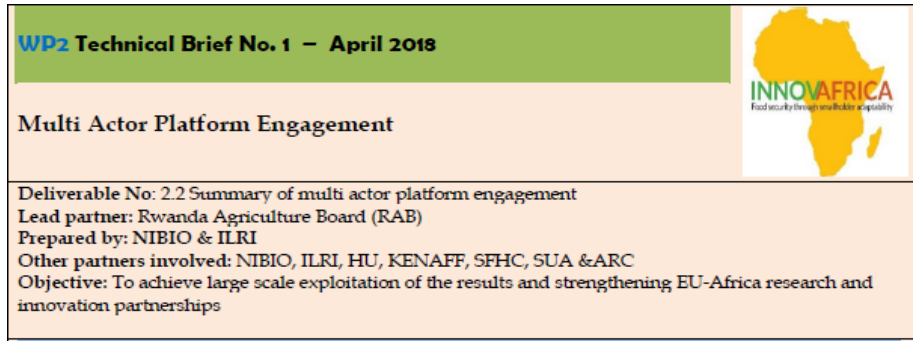
**Key Outputs**

- Participatory variety selection involving men and women farmers (Fig. 1) showed that three Brachiaria cultivars were ranked higher than local check- Rhodes grass.
- No significance difference were recorded between men and women farmers in ranking the forage cultivars (Fig. 2).
- A high variation was found in the biomass productivity among the Brachiaira cultivars in both sites - Kirinyaga and Kangundo (Table 1).
- Over 4,000 farmers are now engaged in cultivation of Brachiaria grass in the study sites and additional 1,500 farmers in other parts of Kenya.

**Key Outcomes/Impacts**

- Improved Brachiaria grass has been a preferred forage option of farmers in Kirinyaga and Kangundo, Kenya.
- Majority of farmers who participated in Brachiaria scaling program have expanded acreage using vegetative root splits.
- There is a high demand for Brachiaria seed and vegetative planting materials in both InnovAfrica sites and in other parts of Kenya
- Farmers are feeding improved Brachiaria grass to their dairy animals and recording milk production increase in range of 15 to 40 percent.

This project is funded from the European's Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No677250






*sustainability*

MDPI

*Article*

# Barriers Affecting Sustainable Agricultural Productivity of Smallholder Farmers in the Eastern Free State of South Africa

Lindumusa Myeni [1,*], Mokhele Moeletsi [1,2], Mulalo Thavhana [1], Mulalo Randela [1] and Lebohang Mokoena [3]

*world*

MDPI

*Article*

# From Policy Promises to Result through Innovation in African Agriculture?

Ruth Haug [1,*], Susan Nchimbi-Msolla [2], Alice Murage [3], Mokhele Moeletsi [4,5], Mufunanji Magalasi [6], Mupenzi Mutimura [7], Feyisa Hundessa [8], Luca Cacchiarelli [9] and Ola T. Westengen [1]

# Key Outputs/Outcomes to targeted Groups

***Smallholders, Women, Farmer organizations***

- ***Increased FNS and productivity in the Case Countries*** *(via Crop diversity, Brachiaria forage, milk production )*
- ***Increased Farmers Adoption on SAIs*** *(through innovative EASs)*
- ***Gender empowerment*** *(Gender integration in the project)*

***Policymakers, Politicians, Government agencies***

- ***Inputs to developing innovative policy frameworks*** *(e.g., the Policy manuals/Governance pathways)*
- ***Investments to improve market infrastructure*** *(e.g., Investment plans for VCs including market)*
- ***Increased stakeholder participation (****MAP engagements throughout the project)*

## ***Scientific community, Development agencies, NGOs***

- ***High quality outputs/new knowledge*** *(Knowledge platform)*
- ***Linkage to ongoing programs*** *(e.g., VKC in Kenya/Tanzania)*
- ***Implementation in other regions /scaling out*** *(Brachiaria forage, Farmer/Policy Manuals)*


## ***Media, Civil Society, Society at large***

- ***Wider awareness on SAI farming benefits*** *(Communication, Dissemination, Exploitation of project results)*
- ***Changing consumption habits*** *(Food Recipe Sharing/Displays Days, e.g., in Malawi)*

# Exploitation of project results

- ***Using project results in further research/innovation activities:*** *for e.g.,* ***InnovAfrica integrated innovations*** *to be tested in regional research centres*

- ***Liaison with other ongoing national/regional projects/platforms*** *for e.g., with* ***FARA, InnovAfrica project*** *in Malawi working with* ***Farms4Biodiversity /Biovision***

- ***Marketing a product*****:** *For e.g.,* **Brachiaria grass, Nutrient dense legumes** *(beans, cow beans, groundnuts, soybeans, etc.)*

- ***Providing a service*** **:** *For e.g.,* ***VKCs*** *in Kenya and Tanzania to be upscaled)*

# Follow-up plans for D&E of InnovAfrica

***1) Update the Knowledge Platform- to reach out large audiences (e.g. BecA through its regional networks:*** *African Seed and Biotechnology Platform)*

***2) Implementation of key policy recommendations through MAPs -Pathways for uptake of the Policy briefs***

***3) Exploitation of results, Dissemination and Outreach Activities***

- ***Presentations/workshops (to students, general public), public talks, open days, research/guided visits, etc. (HU, KALRO, SUA, ARC, UoM, RAB, UNITUS, NMBU)***

Website: www.innovafrica.eu
Knowledge Platform: http://kp-innovafrica.africabiosciences.org/


# Thank you!

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