



INNOVAFRICA SCIENCE - POLICY UPTAKE IN KENYA

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Status of Agriculture in Kenya

- Agricultural sector contributes about 29% to the GDP directly and another 27% indirectly through linkages with other sectors.
- The sector accounts for 65% of the export earnings and provides for 18% of formal employment and 80% of informal employment in the rural areas.
- *Smallholder farms (≤ 2 ha) account for over 65% of the total agricultural output.*
- Kenya commits to the aspirations of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and of CAADP) towards sustainable development.



Policy to promote agricultural sector



- ✓ Vision 2030 for transforming the country into a middle-income status by 2030 with a projected growth rate of 10% in the agricultural sector.
- ✓ The Big Four Agenda aims at 100% food and nutrition security, affordable health care, manufacturing and affordable housing by 2022
- ✓ The Agricultural Sector Growth and Transformation Strategy (2019-2029) to increase incomes of small-scale farmer, pastoralist and fisherfolk incomes, increase agricultural output and value, and boost household food resilience

Policy uptake on Extension and advisory services



- The Guidelines and Standards for Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services (AEAS) developed to provide for a well coordinated, effective and efficient delivery system in 2017
- AEAS plays a great role in agricultural development through delivery of knowledge, technologies and innovations in transformation of subsistence farming.
- The **Village Knowledge Centre** (VKCs) *innovative Information and Communication Technology digital-based platform* - links farmers through smart phones and social media to exchange knowledge.



Status livestock feed resources

- Narrow range of exploited roughage materials, their productivity and production limit feed availability
- Overreliance on the Napier grass which is threatened by diseases
- Diminishing availability of palatable and quality forage species due to overgrazing
- Inadequate supply of forage planting materials and low commercialization of fodder production
- Other problems – e.g., invasive plant species, declining soil health, climate change, urbanization etc



Policy Recommendations



(A) National Government

- i. Facilitate demand driven research on disease resistant and high yielding forages
- ii. Support development of *Brachiaria* grass seed production system
- iii. Invest more resources on research and development of local forages for sustainable livestock production
- iv. Establish and strengthen soil testing laboratory services for sustainable soil health



(B) County Governments

- ✓ Promote adoption of suitable *forage varieties and invest in forage productivity enhancing technologies.*
- ✓ Promote fodder commercialization





Thank you

