

**Maasai Pastoralists' livelihoods threatened:  
The case of Pastoralist Field Schools in  
controlling *Ipomoea spp* in Kajiado County,  
Kenya**

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**Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock & Fisheries**

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**Southern Rangelands  
of the Rift Valley  
(Over 21,000 sq Km)**

# Pastoralist Field School (PFS)

Approach was developed by FAO

Implemented in Kenya since early 1990s

## Purpose

- To improve the decision-making capacity of participants and their wider communities and to stimulate local innovation.
  - introduce new technological innovations while building on indigenous knowledge.
  - Pastoralists learn how to analyse their situation and make informed decisions about their livelihood practices and resource use strategies.



# A SCHOOL WITHOUT WALLS

# Naretoi Pastoralist Field School in session



**A PFS comprises a group of 25 - 30 pastoralists (including elders, men, women and youth)**

## FEMALE PFS MEMBER AND AREA CHIEF CUTTING HAY USING A BRUSH CUTTER



“If I hear it I forget it

If I see it I remember it,

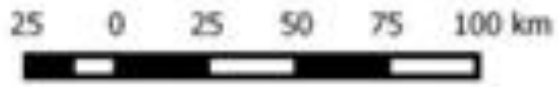
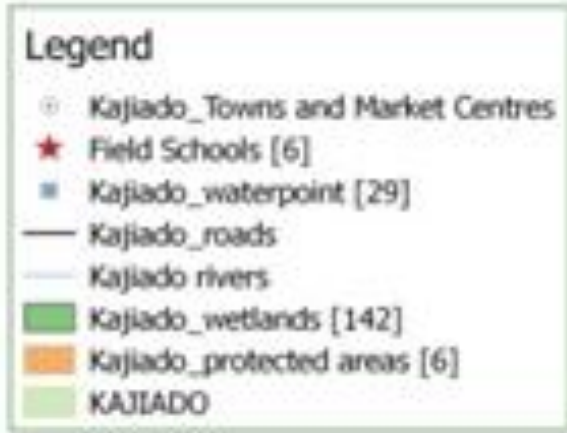
If I discover it I can own  
it for life”

# HOW?

- Technical staff trained on PFS approach for 3 weeks
- Interested community members formed groups
- Trained on governance issues
- Weekly topics facilitated by respective officers both government and NGOs through experiential learning
- Demonstrations, exposure visits
- Continuous monitoring

# NATURAL RESOURCES AND PASTORALIST FIELD SCHOOLS

## MAPPING OF MOST VULNERABLE SITES







## Community mobilization

Men, Women and Youth



# GROUP FORMATION WITH GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE



**Formally registered group**

# PASTURE ESTABLISHMENT DEMO



# Soil and Water Conservation demo



# CHISEL PLOUGHING ON PFS DEMO PLOTS



**Breaking the hard pan**



# EXTENSIVE LIVESTOCK EXPO-NAIROBI



# FARMERS TOUR TO MAKUENI COUNTY




# FARMERS EDUCATIONAL TOUR A RANGE RESEARCH INSTITUTE







# POSTERS






**“OPERATION NG’OA IPOMOEAE”**

**Pamoja Tung’oe**  
**Olbeneyo, Oltimaleshi, Oltiameleteti ama Ipomoea.**  
**Ili Tuboreshe Malisho ya Mifugo Yetu.**





**TUNATAKA MIFUGO KAMA HII!..**

AGRICULTURAL SECTOR DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT PROGRAMME (ASDSP)  
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 P.O. Box 649 Kajalado, Tel: 020-2346699, 0715557333  
 Email: [info@asdsp-kajalado.co.ke](mailto:info@asdsp-kajalado.co.ke), [asdspkajalado@gmail.com](mailto:asdspkajalado@gmail.com),  
[www.asdsp-kajalado.co.ke](http://www.asdsp-kajalado.co.ke)

**Ng’ombe Ni Mali.**  
**“Fuga Ng’ombe Chache, Kwa Acre Moja”**





**Fence & Paddock** ✓

**1**

**2**

**3**

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# *The power of fencing and paddocking*



**After losing over 30 animals to drought this pastoralist accepted to fence over 100 acres of his farm. He was the only one who did not move his animals in the last years drought**



# Ipomoea Weed



# EXTENT OF INVASION (2015)

SUB- COUNTY	AREA (Sq Km)	AREA (Acres)	% INVASION	AREA INVADED (Acres)
Kajiado Central	4,212.60	1,040,956.13	60 %	624,574
Kajiado East	2,610.30	645,019.18	40%	258,008
Kajiado North	148.00	36,571.60	Negligible	0
Kajiado South	6,411.00	1,584,192.60	10%	158,419
Kajiado West	8,397.50	2,075,067.44	20%	415,013
	<b>21,779.40</b>	<b>5,381,806.95</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>1,456,014.10</b>





**Spent over \$1000 labour costs to uproot the weed in 50 acres**



**School children uprooting the weed**

**07/05/2015 13:38**



**Women uprooting the weed**





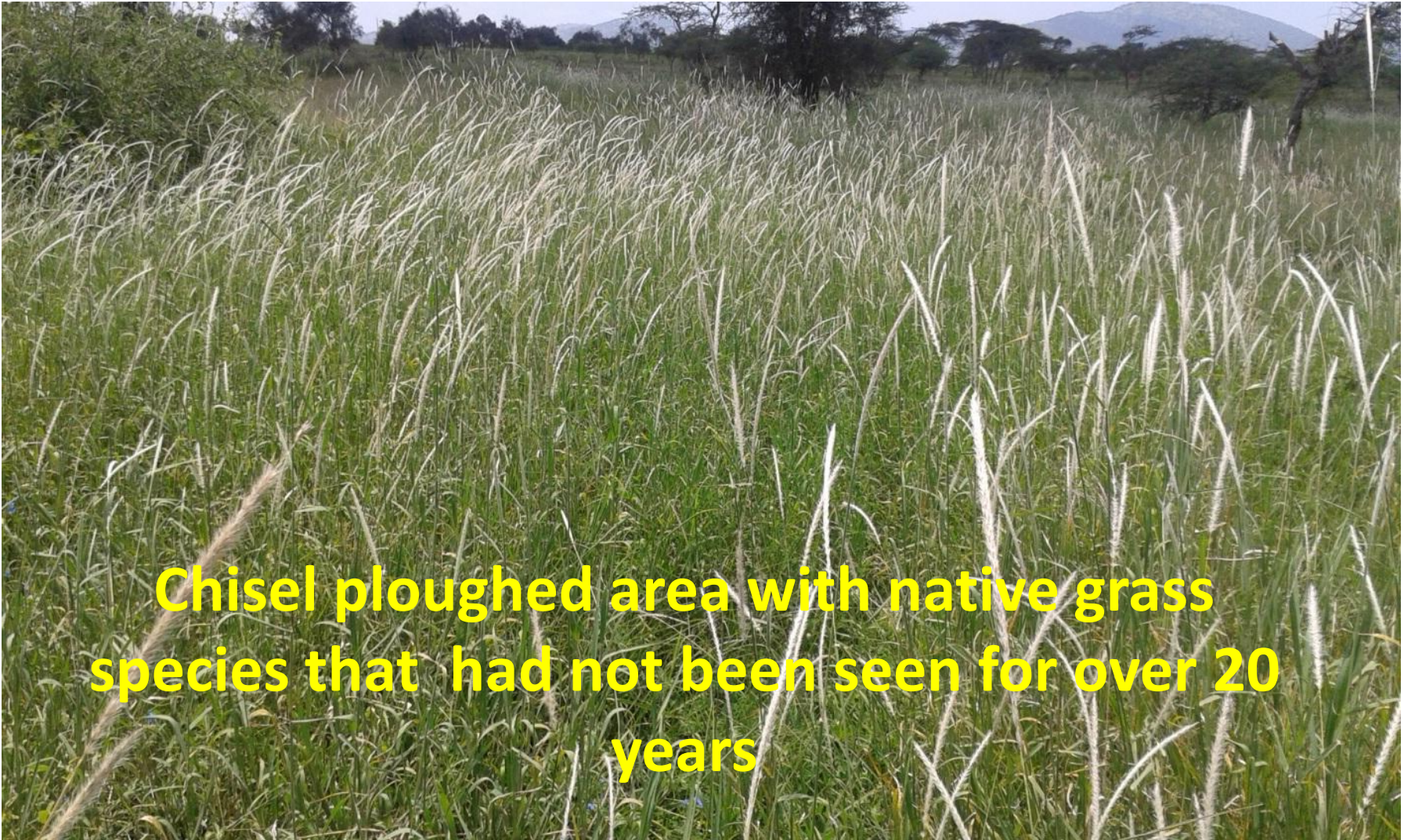
**A Pastoralist uprooting the weed on his farm**

# IPOMOEA FREE FARM FOR ONE MEMBER



# PASTURE IN DUKA MOJA - ILDAMAT





**Chisel ploughed area with native grass species that had not been seen for over 20 years**

# NARETOI GROUP MEMBERS ADMIRING THEIR PASTURE PLOT



# Natural Pature field after Chisel Ploughing



# Portable Grass Cutter



# Mama Agnes using the grass cutter





# Manual Hay baling demonstration



# ALL MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN HAY BARN CONSTRUCTION



# HAY BARN UNDER CONSTRUCTION- OWN INITIATIVE



# Challenges

- Weather – not within our control
- Men not available during dry season - migrate
- Operations need to be done at the right time
- Availability of farm inputs and equipment when needed
- Animals jumping in to demo plots and grazing

# Opportunities

- Pastoralists love their animals
- Willingness by pastoralists to learn
- Devolution and decentralization of services
- Research opportunity – economic uses, biological control, others-----
- Environment /Livestock friendly herbicide???
- We are ready for collaboration work on this

# Black Hairless caterpillar feeding on ipomoea



# FUTURE

- National strategy on conservation of rangeland
- Institutionalization of the approach in our extension services
- Allocating funds in the budget for sustainability
  1. **Capacity building!**
  2. **Capacity building!**
  3. **Capacity building!**

**SUSTAINED MILK AND BEEF VALUE CHAIN**  
**(OUR LIVELIHOOD)**

# Threats



**A new weed — Mt. Kilimanjaro at the background**



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## KAJIADO PASTORALISTS



AGRICULTURAL SECTOR DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT PROGRAMME



# Any Questions?



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