

Objectives of the project

The overall goal of ICSIAPL is to enhance livelihoods of agro-pastoralist communities through improved forage production and livestock husbandry, building on market driven climate smart innovations and integrated landscape management in Taita Taveta, Kajiado and Narok counties.

Background

Agriculture contributes 26% to Kenya's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). In Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs), livestock is the main contributor to the agricultural sector. About 90% of household income and employment in these areas comes from livestock, but the sector faces multiple challenges. The land is often overgrazed and overstocked, human population growth causes competition for land use between agriculture activities and livestock (settlements), soil fertility is declining, and climate change - including frequent prolonged droughts and flooding - pose threats to both the vulnerable population and the herds. Agro-pastoralists use inefficient extensive farming systems as they have limited access to improved certified forage seeds and vegetative planting materials for commercial forage production, thus leaving much potential for improvement.

For these reasons, the project seeks to address the following constraints: low adoption and upscaling of fodder innovations and climate smart technologies; lack of knowledge on and application of sustainable market-based models for forage production that fit prevailing local conditions and landscapes; weakly developed capacities of county governments and other stakeholders and weak coordination on resource planning and management at landscape level; weak policy environment and implementation of policies at the county level; and limited involvement and investment of the private sector.

The theory of change to achieve the objectives

To achieve its objective, ICSIAPL embraces a holistic approach focusing on three interlinked outcome pathways to ensure long-term change, as outlined below.

Impact: Systemic change is expected among 10,000 agro-pastoralists and targeted institutions, 150 Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and county government staff. Through various interconnected interventions, the project aims to realise improved resilience among 60% of the agro-pastoralists reached while improving their living income by 20% at the end of the project.

Work package 1: is dedicated to project management and coordination.

Work package 2 : Increased Resilience of agro-pastoralists and SMEs against climate shocks by the adoption of technology and upscaling of appropriate grazing and feeding innovations.

For this outcome a participatory approach to learning and adoption by farmers is taken. Peer-to-peer learning through demonstration plots and Farmer Field schools (FFS) is central. Building on existing social structures, such as cooperatives and farmer groups, as well as making trainings needs-based, increase the likelihood that farmers choose to be part of trials organised by the Kenya Agricultural & Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) on fodder production and livestock feeding innovations. Special attention is provided to women and youth farmers, to ensure they are not only included in trainings, but are also able to benefit and possibly take leadership positions in the organisations at community level. Peer-to-peer learning is expected to increase farmers knowledge on innovations and in combination with increased access to affordable inputs and services provided by SMEs. As described below, farmers are expected to increasingly adopt grazing and feeding innovations.

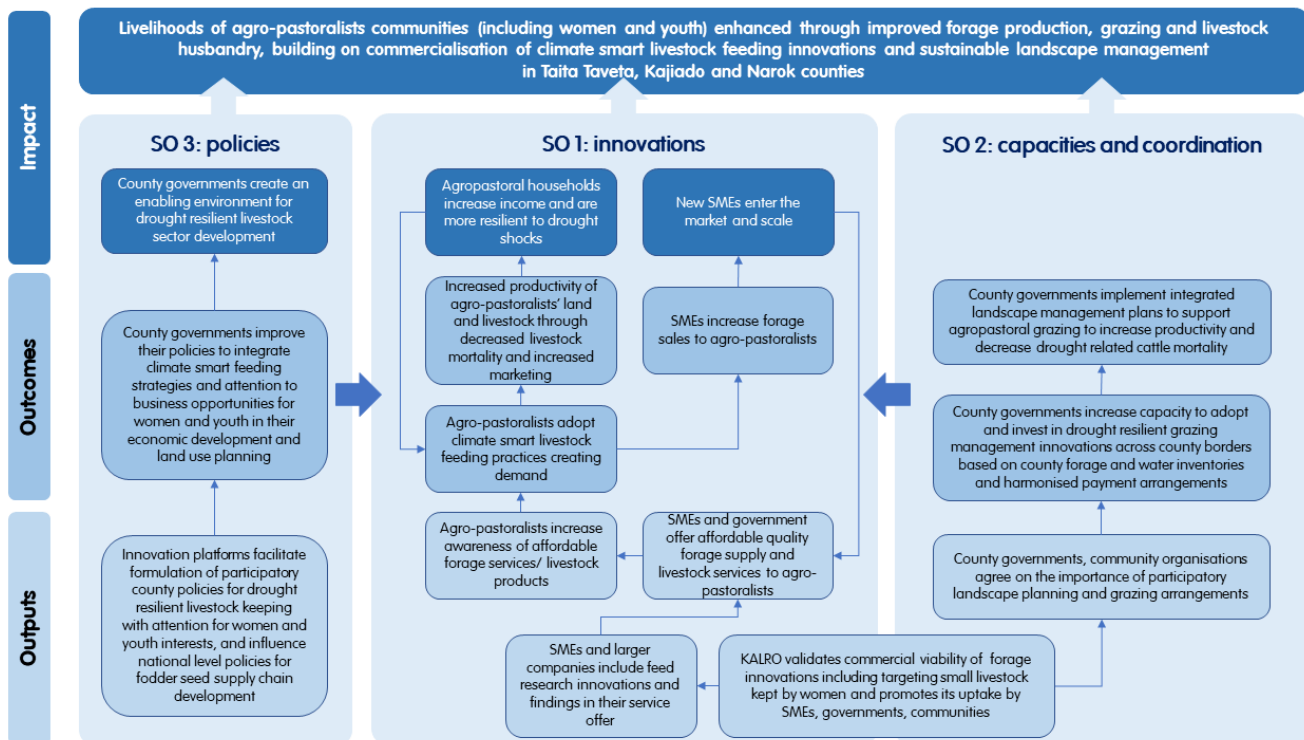
Market led fodder production and livestock feeding innovations is needed to scale adoption by farmers, in which the private sector is an important partner. ICSIAPL proactively links local private sector actors to farmers with affordable inputs and/or services, opening opportunities for increased demand. The assumption is that this demand from farmers will materialise due to activities and outputs described above. To support private sector actors to invest in operations and affordability of services, the project works with them to develop bankable business plans. Moreover, ICSIAPL can contribute (small) co-investments (through its Innovation Fund) to lower risks for financial institutions and make initial investments more attractive. Increased demand from farmers in combination with increased investment opportunities is expected to support businesses to grow and to continue to service farmers.

Work package 3 : Increased capacity of county governments to implement climate resilient integrated landscape management strategies and plans to support agro-pastoralist communities.

Achieving coordination of integrated landscape management approaches in and across the three counties is important to support scaling of innovations. This allows private sector actors and farmers to operate and move across county lines within similar frameworks. ICSIAPL works with county government officials in the three counties to identify gaps in capacity, coordination and joint implementation. This leads to tailored capacity building, aimed at resolving these gaps. Simultaneously, county governments need to work together with local communities, Water Resource Users Associations (WRUA), conservancies and cooperatives to understand what appropriate grazing management and herd mobility strategies are. ICSIAPL supports the development of Multi-stakeholder Platforms (MSPs) to provide a forum where these stakeholders can come together to discuss and agree on the implementation of these strategies. As capacities are grown and a routine for meaningful multi-stakeholder discussions is developed, this is expected to jointly lead to increased coordination among the three counties to implement an integrated landscape management approach.

Work package 4: Improved capacity of county governments to develop local strategies/frameworks for drought resilient sector development compliant with national policies.

County strategies and frameworks need to support private sector actors and farmers to promote and adopt innovations on fodder production and livestock feeding at scale. To this end, county government officials need to have a good understanding of the livestock sector and the difficulties it is facing. First, through training, so they are able to translate this knowledge into supporting policies. Second, to bring innovations to scale, a collective vision and collective action is needed that moves beyond county government officials. Therefore, county governments need regular engagement with other stakeholders to stay in tuned to evolving needs and to stimulate the uptake of innovations. ICSIAPL supports county governments to effectively engage in Multi-stakeholder Platforms (MSP) that involve private sector, research institutes and civil society. The effective running of MSPs and increased coordination among stakeholders are core to realise more inclusive policy development processes, and the ability of county governments to adapt relevant national bills to the county context, ultimately.



Main activities

Enhanced project coordination and management through joint work-planning at county level, joint monitoring, evaluation and learning activities, oversight through the Technical Working Group (TWG) and the Project Steering Committee (PSC) as well as visibility and branding.

To enhance fodder technology upscaling for resilience and commercialisation, the project implements fodder production and livestock feeding trials, farmer field school approach and establishment of learning demo sites through a dissemination strategy, validation of business models and market-based approaches on the basis of production data at harvesting, capacity building and engagement of extension agents for fodder knowledge transfer, training sessions on business planning and governance for business cases supported with innovation and small investment fund, learning events for SMEs on forage input systems.

Capacity building and coordination of integrated landscape management activities include development and implementation of capacity building plans at county level, training of county staff and communities on forage/feed reserve planning and inventory, establishment of multi-stakeholder platforms, strengthening capacities in participatory landscape planning and monitoring, exchange learning visits to model landscape management boards/entities.

In driving policy, strategy development and implementation with an inclusivity agenda, the project focuses on strengthening county technical staff to complete and implement animal feed strategies, training on business leadership for women and youth cooperatives and ranches, establishment of innovation platforms coupled with resource mobilisation to support innovations and policy interventions.

Project Results to date (December, 2022)

Outcome 1: Improved project management and coordination.

The project is well integrated within the three counties evidenced by the operationalised technical working groups (100%), on-course with learning agenda (33%), county specific communications strategies developed and validated that will enhance branding and visibility of the project while enhancing management and coordination of project interventions with technical oversight through 2 management structures established (PSC and TWG).



Ronald Mwachia accompanied by his son in one of his sugar graze farm, Taita Taveta County

Outcome 2 : Increased Resilience of agro-pastoralists and SMEs against climate shocks through adoption of technology and upscaling of appropriate grazing and feeding innovations.

For the last two years of implementation, demonstration plots has been the epicentre for technology diffusion targeting 10,000 pastoralists with fodder technologies and other climate smart technologies. A total of 6 seed-bulking sites have been established and 72 demonstration sites have been established with fodder varieties; this is 60% of the target. Cumulatively, 5493 agro-pastoralists (2645 Male, 2848 Female) have been trained on 21 fodder technologies, feeding and climate smart agriculture practises. This is about 55% of the overall target.

ICSIAPL project has linked local private sector actors to farmers with affordable inputs and/or services, opening opportunities for increased demand for fodder and related inputs.

To spur investments in fodder value chain by these private sector actors, 11 business plans with co-investment have been implemented with selected producer organisations to supply forage, inputs, and drought resilient technologies to the market, through an Innovation Fund that has leveraged EUR 236,717 and through small investment fund (KES 3,467,739) awarded to 17 groups.

Seven (7) forage master plans have been developed for private sectors and operationalised.

Towards certification and commercialisation of fodder varieties, the Kenya Agricultural & Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) is working with the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) to accelerate this while at the same time explore market for KALRO seed with private companies.

In view of promoting research and commercialisation, 3 research papers on fodder production and livestock feeding have been presented.

Outcome 3: Increased capacity of county governments to implement climate resilient integrated landscape management strategies and plans to support agro-pastoralist communities.

During the inception period, ICSIAPL project identified gaps in capacity, coordination and joint implementation among the county government leading to tailored capacity building, aimed at

resolving these gaps. The landscape approach has achieved several outputs which include the design of grazing plans and grazing agreements in priority ranches & conservancies.

Drawn from various SMEs, cooperatives, Community-Based Organisations (CBOs), conservancies and ranches, 114 leaders have been trained and mentored on governance and business leadership skills.

For improved capacity in landscape management practices among stakeholders, 50 stakeholders drawn from CBOs, Water Resource Users Associations (WRUAs) and County Government have been trained holistic landscape management.

Training in grazing management plans has reached 462 (257 Male, 205 Female) participants drawn from WRUAs, CBOs, Board of Management (BOMs). Attributed to this training, 40 (67% planned) community level grazing and landscape plans have been developed.

A total of 46 (100% of planned) county staff have been trained on development of communication strategy and forage strategy that provide practical pathways towards messaging as regards Integrated Landscape Management (ILM) but also best practices in feed and herd mobility management.

A total of 54 county technical stakeholders (120%) trained on drought resilience, fodder strategy formulation and implementation. These strategies will be integrated in the next genre of County Integrated Development Plans, which are the local governments' development blueprints for the next five years.

Generally, capacity building of county governments on development of policies and strategies have been quite successful and has further contributed to development of communication and forage strategies for each of the counties.

Outcome 4: Improved capacity of county governments to develop local strategies/frameworks for drought resilient sector development compliant with national policies.

The project has supported development of a Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) where implementation of landscape management strategies is coordinated hence increased collaborations among the three counties.

Organization

The project is managed through a delegated cooperation between the European Union and the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS), represented by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (EKN) in Nairobi, implemented by the Netherlands Development Organization (SNV) and KALRO. In the consortium arrangement, SNV manages the project while KALRO leads Work Package 2: Technology upscaling for improved resilience, supported by SNV on the market-based approach. SNV steers activities in Work Package 3: Capacity building and coordination of integrated landscape management as well as Work Package 4: Creating an enabling environment related interventions.

Implementing organization

SNV Netherlands Development Organization (SNV): a not-for-profit international development organization that makes a lasting difference in the lives of people living in poverty by helping them raise incomes and access basic services.

Main partner

Kenya Agriculture Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) is the national agricultural and livestock research organization in Kenya.

Other main stakeholders

Agro-pastoralists, youth, women, private sector, SMEs, self-help groups, CBOs, ranches, conservancies, cooperatives, and County Governments of Narok, Kajiado, Taita Taveta.

Location

The project is implemented in Kenya's three counties of Narok, Kajiado and Taita Taveta: considered as Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs).

Funding and co-funding

EU	€ 2,500,000
The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS)	€ 2,498,158
Total budget	€ 4,998,158

Period of implementation

Three and a half (3.5) years from 1 January 2021 to 30 June 2024 (extension about to be approved, as confirmed by the EU Delegation to Kenya on 30/10/2023).

Website

<https://www.snv.org/project/icsiapl>

Updated on 30/10/2024



Co-funded by the European Union
through delegated cooperation



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands



Implementers

