

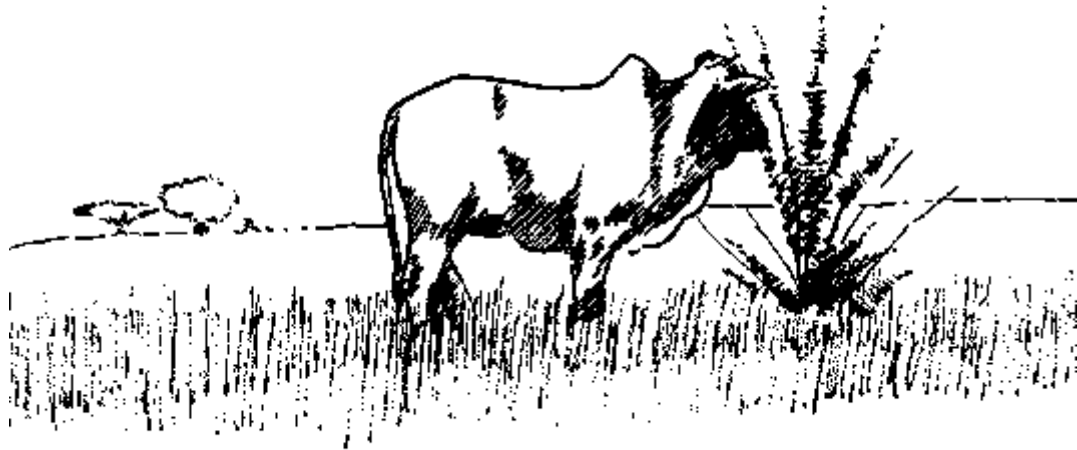
Mwenye skoku hakosi kuni

He who has an axe does not lack for firewood or fodder

Livestock raising is an integral part of most household production systems in Tanzania. Herds are generally considered to be a source of security for future and unexpected needs, though animals are occasionally slaughtered for home consumption.

Trees from forests, woodlands, farms, and fallow land are primary sources of fodder and are instrumental in supporting the livestock population of Tanzania. Animals are generally free grazing, though increasingly villages are introducing zero grazing laws requiring tethering and cut-and-carry systems. It was noticed that in many areas free grazing still inhibits tree planting, even in agroforestry systems. In some areas, for example Babati district of Arusha, the adoption of zero grazing on a large scale is unlikely for the foreseeable future due to the uncertainty of fodder crop production, the length of the dry season, and the availability and cost of labour (Johansson 1992).

In drier areas, particularly Dodoma region and the Southern Highlands, fodder was not generally identified as one of the most important uses of trees, either by men or women. Most farmers said they never bought feed; they only collected fodder for sick or newborn animals. Free grazing was used almost exclusively by those interviewed in these areas.



Trees grown for fodder should:

- produce leaves or pods that animals like to eat and have high nutritional content;
- withstand lopping, pruning, and coppicing;
- grow quickly, especially in the early growth stages;
- withstand pests, diseases and browsing animals;
- have, other uses.

In some districts the demand for fodder is so high that farmers have started to grow fodder grass for supplementary dry grass. On the slopes of Mt. Kilimanjaro indigenous tree species have either been retained or planted for the specific purpose of supplying fodder. Of the farmers interviewed there, all mentioned the importance of trees for supplying fodder. However none sold leaf fodder, although occasionally they had to purchase it in the lower lying areas. One farmer estimated that he produced 75% of the fodder required to feed his 4 goats and 2 cows. However, he still purchased from outside the village 4, 7 tonne loads of feed costing about 60000 TSH (1992) for the 28 tonnes.

Some highly preferred species for fodder production include: *Acacia albida*, *Vitex payos*, *Ficus spp.*, and *Croton macrostachyus*