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**Title: GARISSA COUNTY MITIGATES LIVESTOCK DEATH DUE TO DROUGHT BY INNOVATING UNIQUE CATTLE FEED**

County:	<b>Garissa County</b>		
Sector/s:	<b>Agriculture ASAL</b>	<b>Sub-sector/Theme:</b>	
Keywords: (for search in the online platform)	<b>Prosopis Juliflora, Mathenge tree, Animal feed</b>		
Target Audience:	<b>Farmers, Residents of ASAL areas,</b>		
Authors (contacts and their institutions can be included as well)	<b>Nzei Sharon Mwende- Maarifa Centre</b>		
Resource Persons (include their designations)	<b>Mohamed Suleiman – CEC Trade Abdikhani aham – Trade development officer Garissa County Samuel King’ori – Maisha Mathenge Haron Ngeno- Program Officer Trade, CoG</b>		

**Introduction**

Garissa is a County in the Northern Kenya with a population of 841,353 people according to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) 2019 census, and a land area of about 44,753 km<sup>2</sup>. The Northern part of Kenya, like any other arid or semi-arid regions in sub-Saharan Africa, has greatly suffered lack of sufficient pasture for livestock. The pastoral communities in Garissa County continue to experience drought which results in animal death. In 2022, the County lost over 2,000,000 livestock from lack of pasture. Pastoral communities in the County depend on cattle keeping as both source of income and prestige. Farmers with large numbers of livestock are considered rich, powerful and prestigious.



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With water shortage, the communities move from one place to another, meeting with other pastoralists in charge of large and small herds but all in search of pasture. For women, this pastoral culture has sometimes led to sexual and gender-based violence as most of them are raped and sexually abused trying to fend for their livestock. For school boys who are young and energetic, they are forced to drop out of school to herd cattle. To mitigate these negative effects, the County Government of Garissa in partnership with Marifa Conner is using bones from slaughtered animals and Prosopis Juliflora tree (locally known as Mathenge tree) products to make animal feeds.

**Implementation of the practice (Solution Path):**

In 2019, the County Government of Garissa partnered with Marifa Conner and Mathenge Maisha (a local community group) to produce animal feed from the Prosopis Juliflora tree.

The County Department of Trade was tasked with a responsibility of purchasing bone crushing machines and conducting capacity building amongst communities. Marifa Conner, a partner company, provided pods crushing machines while Maisha Mathenge and other farmers provide man power and raw materials.

The Mathenge tree was initially planted on largescale in late 80s to prevent soil erosion in Northern Kenya. With readily available raw materials, the County started a processing firm in 2020.

The following was the budget:

Expense/Item	Cost in Ksh
Bone grinding machine	500,000
Three phase power connection.	150,000
Wheelbarrow (10)	30,000
Pods grinding machine	800,000
Feeds mixer machine	400,000
Sacks (5000).	250,000
Sewing machine	10,000
Canvas (10)	20,000
Premise rent	200,000

**RAW MATERIALS**

Item	Cost
20tonnes of bones	400,000
20tonnes of pods	300,000



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### **Sustainability of project**

The County Government of Garissa has identified and selected public lands to plant more Mathenge trees for adequate long-term supply of raw materials.

Monthly sensitization of local communities helps in changing the mindset hence creating a long-term positive view of the initiative and acceptance.

### **Recommendations /Lessons learnt:**

Sensitizing the local community on the innovation was key to gaining trust and motivation to try the feed. County Governments willing to adopt the innovation should consider sensitizing local communities first.

To increase nutrients to the feed, grinding bones and adding them in the milling processes is important.

There is need for proper training on staff in the processing firm to learn the right mixing portions of both bones and Prosopis Juliflora to get the right feed. Just like in human consumption, food matters are very important to livestock too, getting the right ingredients is key

### **Further reading:**

For further reading and reference visit both:

Mathenge Maisha website and Garissa County website

<https://garissa.go.ke/>



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*A sack of Mathenge Maisha Animal feed*