

# Maziwa Zaidi (More Milk) in Tanzania

## Improved forages can boost milk production in Tanzania's Highlands

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### Key messages

- Tanzania's highland areas like Lushoto-Tanga have the potential to increase milk production for improved household nutrition and incomes
- But a major constraint hindering livestock performance is inadequate quality and quantity forages
- Community based forage seed systems can spread forage availability and adoption for increased animal productivity
- Promotion and awareness of improved forages with potential to improve productivity is critical

### Opportunities for inclusive investment and scaling

- Production and sale of Brachiaria, Napier grass and Desmodium seeds or planting materials could present Community Based Organizations (CBOs) - especially women and youth – with income generating opportunities
- Using improved forages can also boost milk production for domestic consumption and sale
- There is need to create awareness of the untapped benefits of forage production through CBOs

### Objectives and approach

- We evaluated forages for increased output and quality
- Our farmer participatory forage evaluation included Brachiaria, Napier grass, Desmodium and the benefits of proper agronomic measures
- We involved livestock researchers and extension workers in Tanzania to make the work sustainable

### Key results

- Napier grass and Brachiaria can improve livestock productivity
- Desmodium can improve fodder quality as is rich in plant protein
- Planting materials /seeds for forages are not easily sourced and efforts towards this would enhance adoption
- Farmers are willing to improve animal productivity for increased income from milk and meat

### Pictures and graphs

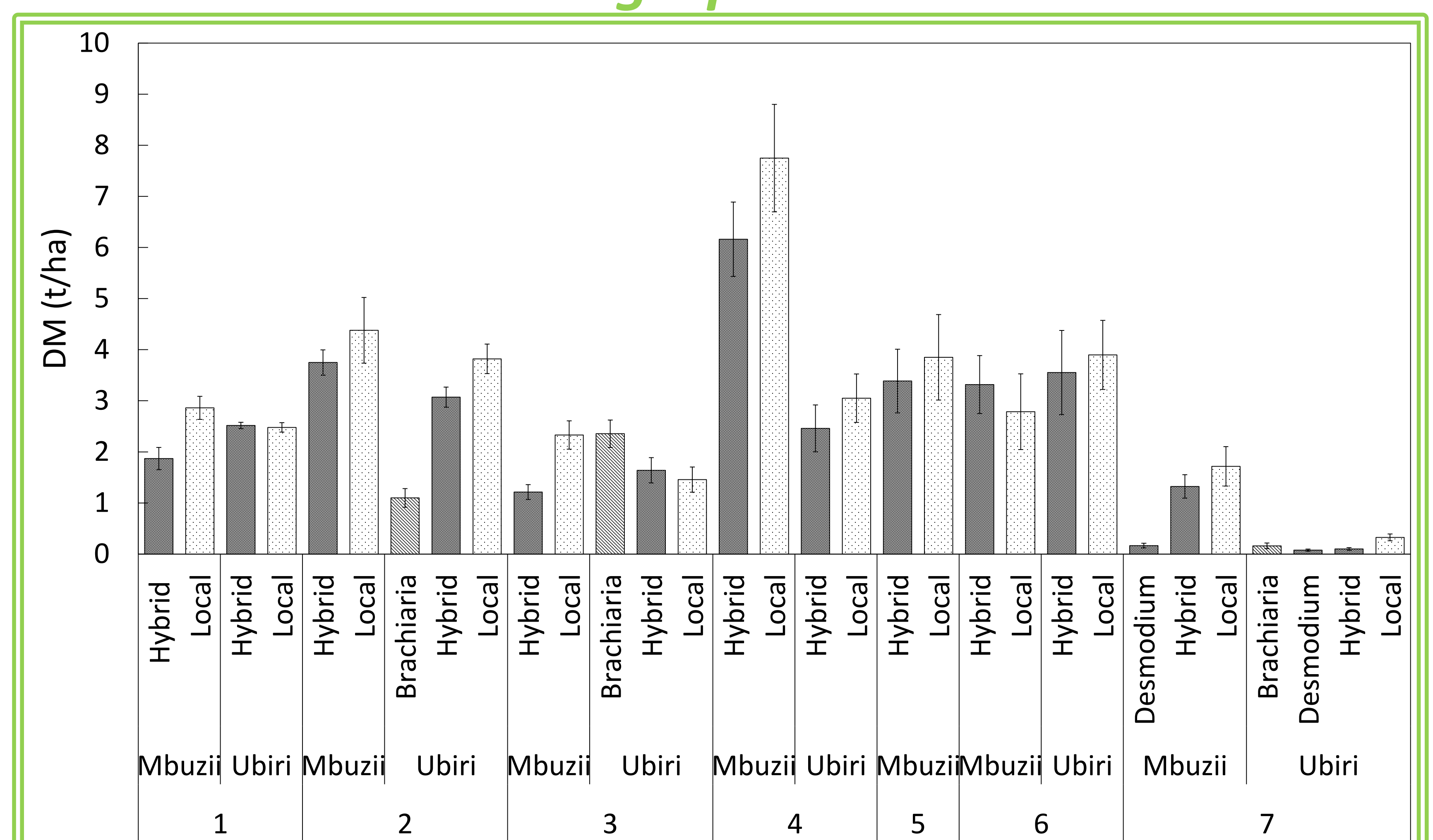


Figure 1. Herbage yield (t/ha) of forage technologies over seven growth cycles and at two sites (Mbuzii, Ubiri) at Lushoto, Tanzania highlands



Napier-Desmodium intercrop



Napier canes planting materials

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