



MEET ILARAMATAK GROUP AND HOW THEY HAVE CHANGED THE WAY THEY FEED THEIR LIVESTOCK

When it comes to the Maasai community most people think of movement in search of pastures for their livestock. Well, it's different from Ilaramatak small-scale pastoralist group, a pastoralist group under the FPC project for SAT Organization which is financed by Biovision.

Ilaramatak group which was formed in May 2020 under the project went through training and practices for pasture production, so now they can produce their own pasture to help them feed their livestock without worrying about dry season or overgrazing.

Madam Mkei Kilimanjaro as one of the members and also the assistant chairperson of the group explains to us what has the project helped her so far and the future she expects from this project. It all started in May 2020 when they attended the village meeting which was organized by SAT and started receiving training on pasture production through the farmer field school located in Shuleni Su-village.



What most motivated her to join the group was the improved breeding program of the FPC project that will ultimately change her livestock production and life in general. But also during the time, she was facing a significant problem of lack of enough pastures for grazing her livestock when it comes to dry season or grazing the same area for a long time.

Currently, Madam Mkei has acquired enough knowledge on pasture production, harvesting, and storage that reduced the movement for searching pasture. Madam Mkei has around 42 acres of land of which, through Indigenous methods, she managed to set aside 10 acres and manage them as Aloilili.

Madam Mkei is grateful for what SAT has done so far in terms of training and support in the establishment of Farmer Field School (FFS). She adds up that SAT has helped in the saving and lending group model.

As an entrepreneur, she has her short-term goal of starting production of her own improved pastures in a two acres farm this year. But she could reach a higher goal of expanding the area for improved pasture with the 30 more acres she has if she had access to a reliable market for her produced milk.

With the success of the Ilaramatak group so far there still challenges facing most of them especially when it comes to livestock production. As Madam Katande Kamando reports is a lack of water for home consumption and for livestock especially during the dry season. Madam Katande Kamando (Group Secretary) reported that “We are walking very long distance for searching for water for the cattle and the water supplied in the village is from outside and very expensive, it happens to buy 20 Liter of water for Tsh. 500 to Tsh. 1000” She added that “if you have 10 cattle at home you need to buy not less than 600 Liters which can cost Tsh. 15,000, and this is for those who own minimum number of cattle”



Ilaramatak group has joint planning goals as every group member is required to have Aloilili and needs to have at least 2 acres of improved pasture for his own cattle. The FFS for pasture is used as seed multiplication and conservation area for the group.

