

Cultivation of Juncao grass experience



By

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Outline

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Introduction

- I am an entrepreneur, graduate farmer in Bulinda village, Bukoba District in Kagera region, Tanzania
- I am among the few graduates resorted in agriculture
- Agriculture has been the hope for my life
- I started started as a subsistence activity



Activities

- My income comes from agriculture along with selling water to the villagers from the borehole well for domestic use.
- Crops :
 - ✓ Bananas
 - ✓ Vegetables
 - ✓ Pastures
 - ✓ and keep goats, chicken, pigs and I expect to keep diary cattle



Juncao cultivation experience

- Using two hundred of Juncao cuttings in 2017 received from a friend from Morogoro, which he got them from SUA I was able to establish a small plot
- Now I have two acres and I occasionally employ two to three women and to date have 6 years experience
- I expect to expand the cultivation to five acres this September, 2022

Advantages and Disadvantages of juncao plant



■ Advantages

- ✓ Propagation by seedlings and cuttings
- ✓ They colonize easily
- ✓ They remain succulent throughout a year
- ✓ They are robust
- ✓ Not susceptible to diseases

■ Disadvantages

- ✓ They suppress (**this observation need to be rechecked because in my plots and other demonstration plots this is not the case**) other species are growing other pastures or crops when mixed



Challenges of cultivation

- Declining land
- Fencing cost
- High cost of establishing Juncao plot (tillage, fertilizer, fencing, labour, ...)
- Low technology



Opportunities

- Available traditional range land (*rweya*)
- Adequate rainfall throughout a year (1000-2000mm)
- Residents are traditionally agro- pastrolist
- Juncao can easily grow along the boundary of their farms (*kibanja*)



Conclusion

- Juncao cultivation is the future of the small holder farmers to replace free range grazing system and also it is part of a solution of conflicts between farmers and livestock keepers



Pictures of juncao plot



First plot of juncao



Top view of juncao



Pictures of juncao plot



Part of harvested plot



Part of harvested plot



Other crops



Sweet pepper and banana



Maize plot



Other crops



Vanilla



Vanilla pods



Borehole water well



Well

The end



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kunisikiliza**



- Is he providing these grasses to other farmers in the village. If so how many farmers have obtained Juncao planting materials from his farm. This information is crucial for technology wide adoption
- I was expecting to see some photos where is feeding livestock with Juncao grass
- What other livestock fodder is he using besides using Juncao grass? What is his comparative recommendation?
- How is the local community perceiving Modestus upon having pasture for livestock production?