Dairy farming made easier with the NARO forage chopper
Mary and her husband prepare forage to feed their cows

Mary is a dairy farmer. Mary wakes up early every day to take care of her family and dairy cows.

The cows do not eat all of the forage Mary’s husband brings for them. They refuse to eat the harder and larger pieces of grass.

Mary uses a panga to cut forage to feed her cows. Cutting forage takes a long time and Mary becomes tired from all the work she does.

Mary has seen other cows that look healthier than hers. They eat better and produce more milk.
Mary and her husband prepare forage to feed their cows
Mary and her husband go to an agricultural show to learn about new farming products.

At the show there is a stall where a technician is talking about a NARO forage chopper. Mary becomes interested in the machine and wants to hear more about it.

Mary tells the technician that her cows are not eating all of their feed and are not producing enough milk.

The technician says that he has heard this before from other dairy farmers. He says that the NARO forage chopper cuts forage into small pieces that are easily eaten by cows.
Mary and her husband attend an agricultural show
The technician tells Mary benefits of using the NARO forage chopper:

- It cuts the hard and soft parts of grass into small pieces. The pieces mix together better than grass cut with a panga.
- Finely chopped grass is easier for cows to eat. Because the grass is cut small and mixed, the cows will eat everything. This increases feed intake and reduces wastage.
- It makes a farmer’s work safer and quicker than cutting with a panga.
- It is able to make 1 ton of forage per hour.

Mary is saddened to hear that the forage chopper is expensive. It costs 3.5 million shillings, but the technician gives her an idea.
The technician talks about the benefits of the NARO forage chopper.
Mary is a member of a farmers’ group. She realises that other members of her group could benefit from using the NARO forage chopper, as well.

At their next meeting, Mary shows the farmers’ group a poster and tells them about the NARO forage chopper.

Other members are interested in the NARO forage chopper. If group funds are used to buy one, members can share the chopper and all of them will be able to feed their cows easily.
Mary tells her farmers’ group about the NARO forage chopper
Mary’s farmers’ group takes a vote and decides to buy a NARO forage chopper.

Mary, the chairperson and the treasurer ask an extension worker where the nearest NARO distributor is. They contact the NARO holdings location to make sure NARO forage choppers are sold there.

When buying it, the group receives training on how to use the chopper, how to service the machine and where to go if they need to repair it.
The farmers’ group decides to buy the NARO forage chopper
Mary uses the NARO forage chopper at home

At home with the NARO forage chopper, Mary and a group member gather grasses for chopping and are able to make forage quickly and more easily than before.

The freshly cut forage is placed on a tarpaulin to prevent contamination.

Mary and her group members are able to chop more forage. They will be able to store some for use later.

Mary’s cows are enjoying the finely chopped grass and do not leave wasted pieces.
Mary uses the forage chopper at home
Mary gets a higher milk yield from her cows

Some weeks later, Mary’s cows have become healthier because they are eating better.

Mary and the members of her farmers’ group have seen improvements:

- They are spending less time and money on labour used to prepare forage.
- Their cows are producing more milk because they are healthier. This means more money can be earned from selling extra milk.
Mary gets a higher milk yield from her cows
Mary and her farmers’ group are happy with their investment

When Mary goes to the milk collecting centre, she has more milk from her dairy cows to sell. This additional milk brings Mary more profit.

The other group members also see increased profits from higher milk yields, so the money that was paid for the NARO dairy chopper will soon be earned back.

Mary and her farmers’ group are happy and know that their NARO forage chopper was a good investment.
Mary and her farmers’ group are happy with their investment
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