



The “Maziwa Faida” (successful dairy) project is a €3m co-operation and development project funded by Government of Ireland / Embassy of Ireland in Tanzania that was established in 2021 through Sustainable Food Systems Ireland (SFSI). It is focussed on developing sustainable dairy production solutions for local conditions in Tanzania and is based largely around the TALIRI dairy research centre in Tanga (North East Tanzania) and the farmers in the local catchment area. Tanga is in the coastal zone which is characterised by a warm tropical climate with a dry season from June to October.

Over the last five years Teagasc and TALIRI have worked closely to develop and implement a forage focussed research and outreach pilot programme in co-operation with colleagues in TALIRI, the Ministry of Livestock, LITA (local agricultural education college), Local Extension Service and a number of other partners (public and private).

Key features of the project have been the investment in the research farm infrastructure including new forage trials, fencing, water, laboratories and computers as well as large scale demonstration and outreach facilities which have been established to a high standard and were visited by over 600 stakeholders at a recent dairy open day.

During the project eight TALIRI staff have also been supported to complete a Masters programme in co-operation with Sokoine University. Areas studied include quality forage production, animal breeding and reproduction, milk quality, evaluation of extension and training and the impact on women in the dairy supply chain.

Over 20 TALIRI, LITA and Ministry of livestock staff have visited Ireland as part of a programme of technical exposure visits and short technical training (up to 10 weeks). In addition, two students from UCD completed a field project in Tanga over an eight week period as part of their Masters programme in Extension.

Overall 3,600 small holder dairy farmers and 40 extension officers (advisors) have participated in the project with 100 ha of improved forages (identified as suitable for the region) planted in a number of different locations. The project has delivered targeted training to farmers and extension officers, established demo farm sites and supported improved data capture and processing by all scientists and support staff.

Participating farmers report encouraging results – where forage can be provided to cows throughout the full season including periods of drought (from hay or silage) instead of depending on rough

forages cut from common land , milk production can increase by over 50%, leading to stronger resilience and improved household incomes.

The project is led by Dr Padraig French from Teagasc and Dr Zabron Nziku from TALIRI with support from Dr Sizya Lugeye a former Irish Embassy official who studied for a PhD in extension in UCD a number of years ago.

Teagasc chairman Liam Herlihy along with Teagasc staff Paul Maher and Padraig French and David Butler SFSI / DAFM visited the project from 8 June to 13 June 2026 and the following is a selection of key activities during the visit.

<b>Meetings with Irish Embassy, Kerry and IFAD</b>	
	<p><b>Irish Embassy Dar es Salaam</b> Meeting with Ambassador Nicola Brennan, Suzanne Keatinge and Katarina Mungure at the Irish Embassy in Dar es Salaam.</p> <p>Ambassador Brennan confirmed the project will receive a further years funding (year 6) while the embassy finalises its own strategy and it becomes clearer how the IFAD dairy project (€200m) will progress in country.</p>
	<p><b>Kerry</b> Ingredient Manufacturing Facility in Dar es Salaam.</p> <p>This facility is focussed on generating specialised concentrated solutions for food processors. They are open to exploring the use of locally sourced dairy ingredients. Currently volumes and consistency of dairy are unsuitable.</p>
	<p>Meeting with <b>IFAD</b> country co-ordinator.</p> <p>IFAD are in year 1 of a large 10 year €200m budget project to support the dairy industry in Tanzania. This funding will support a range of activities including milk collection infrastructure, provision of credit to small holders, sourcing of animal genetics and expansion of the forage production model piloted by Maziwa Faida. TALIRI will receive funding from this project. Irish League of Credit Unions also involved.</p>

**Farmers visited in the Muheza District and LITA Agricultural Education College**

Farmer supported by project to grow C. Ciliaris for feeding fresh as well as conservation



Group of farmers who have tried out the forage which is grown on a nearby common 1 acre demonstration area



Example of low quality forage sourced by farmers who don't grow their own



Small independent milk processor who processes up to 1,000 litres per day from milk sourced from 80 local farmers



Head of LITA gives an overview of their national programme



LITA students demonstrate their Animal Health knowledge



**Dairy Open Day – TALIRI Tanga (first time such an event has been held)**

Open Day Booklet prepared by TALIRI and provided to over 600 attendees



Embassy, Ministry, TALIRI, LITA, SFSI and Teagasc officials at TALIRI



Embassy staff assisting the calf feeding demonstration



Forage demonstration by TALIRI staff



Padraig French in discussion with professor Komba Head of TALIRI



Teagasc Chairmans Address



Forum – Speakers and Visitors



Forum Audience



## **Selection of Photos from the Open Day**

<https://mikefirstbrand22.pixieset.com/taliriopenday2026/>

## **Social Media Coverage from Open Day (some similar content on different platforms)**

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/DZdweP2oY88/>

<https://mikefirstbrand22.pixieset.com/taliriopenday2026/>

[A X post from the Irish embassy showcasing the project](#)

<https://www.georgemaratotv.com/2026/06/serikali-yaomba-awamu-ya-pili-ya-mradi.html>

<https://www.michuzi.co.tz/2026/06/serikali-yaomba-awamu-ya-pili-ya-mradi.html>

<https://x.com/i/status/2065401668527620275>

[An Instagram post from Junirvijeru from the TALIRI Open Day](#)

<https://www.arushadigital.com/2026/06/serikali-yaomba-awamu-ya-pili-ya-mradi.html>

<https://theafricaninsideriinfo.blogspot.com/2026/06/tanzania-seeks-continued-partnership.html>

[tz360 news coverage on Instagram from the project](#)

[Online media coverage from therespondents.co.tz](#)

<https://francisdande.blogspot.com/2026/06/serikali-yaomba-kuendeleza-ushirikiano.html>

[An Instagram post from theafricaninsiderinfo](#)

<https://uhurupublications.co.tz/2026/06/12/serikali-yaomba-kuendeleza-ushirikiano-na-ireland-kupitia-awamu-ya-pili-ya-mradi-wa-maziwa-faida/>

[An Instagram post from sparklight\\_tv](#)

[A Facebook post from Spark Light TV](#)

[A YouTube short video from Wasafi\\_Media](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1002682718802723/>

[An Instagram post from muungwanablog](#)

<https://tanzaniatimes.net/ireland-dishes-out-3-million-euros-to-improve-the-dairy-industry-in-tanzania-through-extended-program/>

<https://farmersreviewafrica.com/ireland-commits-us3-5-million-to-boost-tanzanias-dairy-sector/>

<https://www.facebook.com/taliri.go.tz>

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1018941753927132>

## About Tanzania

Tanzania is a country that is more than 10 times the size of Ireland with an estimated population of over 60m people and an estimated cattle herd of over 25m.

The majority of dairy production in the region visited (Tanga, in the North East) comes from small holder 2-3 cow herds. The country is close to the equator.

