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UN IN ACTION

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CATTLE BREEDING MEETS NUCLEAR SCIENCE

VIDEO

CATTLE WALKING

CHILDREN SMILING

FARMERS SITTING ON THE GRASS

MARUKA ON-CAMERA

AUDIO

NARRATION

Central Tanzania – cattle is a main source of food and income for the Massai. (6)

But there are no bulls to disturb the peace. In fact the community doesn't need them. (6)

They have this – frozen semen. // In the village of Alailedla, Maruka carries out inseminations. (9)

MARUKA: (In Maasai) M

"I use artificial insemination because it's a good method. If I buy bulls and transport them around the district it's quite expensive and the logistics are tricky. It's less work to distribute the semen. Another advantage of artificial insemination is that you avoid the spread of the diseases that the cow can get from the bull with normal mating." (28)

NARRATION

MARUKA CONDUCTING
INSEMINATION

Maruka is one of 50 inseminators trained under projects operated by the International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA. (10)

TRAINING TAKING PLACE

PEOPLE LISTENING

Participants from all over Africa come to Tanzania's National Artificial Insemination Centre, in Arusha. // Almost 29 prime bulls of various breeds are kept here. (16)

TESTING AND DILUTING THE
SEMEN

Semen is collected and prepared for distribution with controls in place to evaluate the quality. It's then diluted and filled into straws. (12)

PUTTING THE SEMEN INTO
STRAW

Samples are frozen and contained in liquid nitrogen. This makes transporting them easy and allows storage for many years without the use of electricity. (12)

Up to 150 000 straws are produced each year at this centre. (5)

Inseminators use them as needed in communities all over Tanzania. (6)

RIA BEING CONDUCTED

A nuclear technique known as a radioimmunoassay – or RIA for short – is a kind of pregnancy test conducted just three weeks after artificial insemination. One RIA test can be done on samples from up to 80 cows. (20)

The IAEA has supported the use of this technique in nearly 90 countries, by training experts,

establishing laboratories and providing RIA kits.
(11)

NARRATION

CATTLE /CROWDS/VILLAGE

Farmers can now breed cows, which fetch higher prices at market and at the same time, produce better quality meat. (12)

UN LOGO

This report was produced by Louise Potterton for the United Nations. (4.5)