ENHANCING HOUSEHOLD INCOMES THROUGH IMPROVING PRODUCTIVITY OF SMALL EAST AFRICAN ZEBU IN UGANDA'S EXTENSIVE GRAZING AREAS

CURRENT SITUATION

- Grow at a rate of 100g/day
- Attain 250kg live weight (LW) after 5.5 years
- Carcass weight at maturity is 140kg

Implying that:

- A farmer of SEAZ earns Ushs. 980,000 (140x7000) as gross revenue per animal after 5.5years

DESIRED SITUATION

- A growth rate of approx. 500g/day
- Attainment of 300 kg live weight after 2 years
- Carcass weight of 150kg at maturity

Implying that:

- A farmer earns 1,050,000 (150x7000) as gross revenue per animal after 2 years.



5yrs old SEAZ grazing

Improved nutrition results in:

- Better growth rates
- Reduced age at slaughter
- Higher meat yield
- High meat: bone ratio
- Good quality meat



Desired LW and BCS for SEAZ at 2yrs

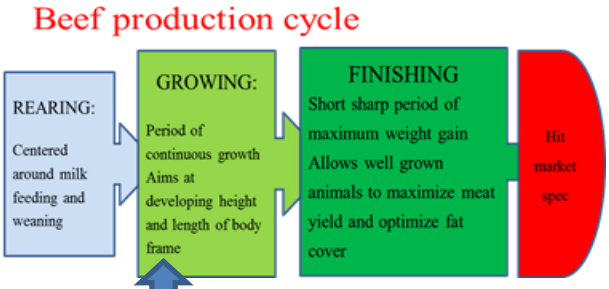
CURRENT RESEARCH TO ACHIEVE DESIRED SITUATION

- Evaluated nutritional quality of pastures in extensive grazing areas
- Formulate and test farm made supplementary rations for growing SEAZ to target >500g ADG
- Intervene at growing phase targeting 150kg LWt at entry to finishing at 18mo.
- Formulate and test farm made supplementary rations for finishing SEAZ to target >700g ADG
- Finish to slaughter targeting 300kg LWt in 3 to 4 mo., high grade carcasses and good quality meat

Thus increased household income from sell of high grade animals for beef in a short period



Maize silage, a diet supplement





SEAZ weaners at intervention stage