

**“FODDER HAS HELPED ME INCREASE MY MILK PRODUCTION”**

**VSF-Suisse Somalia**

Mohamed Sheikh Wayrah bought land two years ago to plant vegetables while continuing to rear his livestock. Then he met Hassan Hussein a farmer who was being supported by VSF-Suisse to run a demonstration farm for improved fodder production near his home in Luuq.

Hassan Hussein introduced him to the different kinds of grass (Sudan, Mukuna and Napier) that he was growing and advised him on the importance and benefits of improved fodder production. He also gave him some Sudan grass seeds to try on his farm.

In June 2008, Mohamed approached VSF-Suisse for further advice and was included among 20 other farmers who received support and training on fodder development from July to Dec 2008.



*Mohamed Wayrah (Centre) at his farm with his workers*

The farmers were trained in fodder establishment, fodder management practices, harvesting techniques and utilization of fodder and pasture. In addition they also received ten kilograms of Sudan grass seeds which Mohamed planted on two of his 11 acres of land.

Mohamed fed the newly produced fodder to his cattle and shoats (sheep and goats) and he believes that this increased his milk production. “My two cows now give me a litre more everyday while I also get half a litre more from the five lactating shoats. I have also noted that their health has improved,” explains Mohammed.

Currently Mohamed has 301 bales of hay in storage for use during severe drought and has sold some for income. “From fodder production I now earn extra income and my children also have more milk to drink and my animals enough feed during the dry period,” says Mohamed.