

SMALLHOLDER SEMI-ZERO GRAZING UNIT

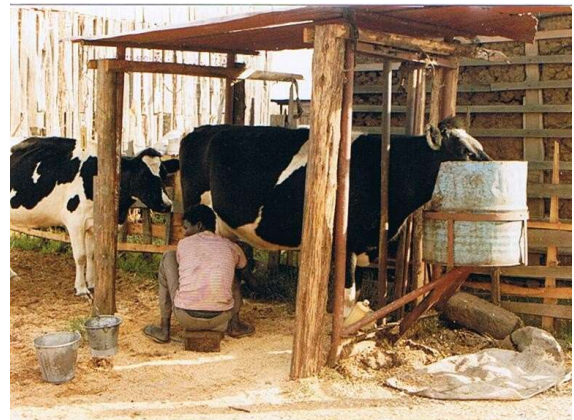
AIM: TO PROVIDE IDEAS FOR A SMALLHOLDER DAIRY UNIT

1. How can I manage my herd efficiently?

- ❖ Efficient dairy farmers maximise the use of their time, whilst ensuring cows can concentrate on producing milk.
- ❖ One way to do this is to have facilities which allow easy movement of dairy animals and ensure that cows have:
 - 24/7 supply of fresh, clean water;
 - Feed which is matched to their stage of production (*see fact sheets F06 and F06A*);
 - A clean, dry, comfortable, shady place to lie down;
 - Sufficient space to move around.

2. Key points for building a 'low cost' smallholder dairy unit

- ❖ Use **locally available resources**, e.g. wooden poles for supports and thatch for a roof;
- ❖ Use an appropriate design – *see next page for an example*.
- ❖ Remember to check that there are no sharp places, e.g. nails where cows can injure themselves.
- ❖ Ensure the building provides protection from the weather (rain, sun, dust).
- ❖ Ensure the building is well ventilated – this helps reduce the chance of cows developing respiratory disease.



Floor: use a **hard, flat surface** which is **easy to clean** and **durable**, e.g. cement or concrete on top of a base of stones.

- Prevent the floor becoming waterlogged and help rainwater and water used for cleaning to drain away by:
 - Being 10 – 15 cm above ground level;
 - Making a drain line away to lower areas, e.g. a kitchen garden
- This also helps the surroundings to dry up quicker.

Roof: Thatch or a hard roof. Ideally slightly sloping so water runs off and does not settle.

