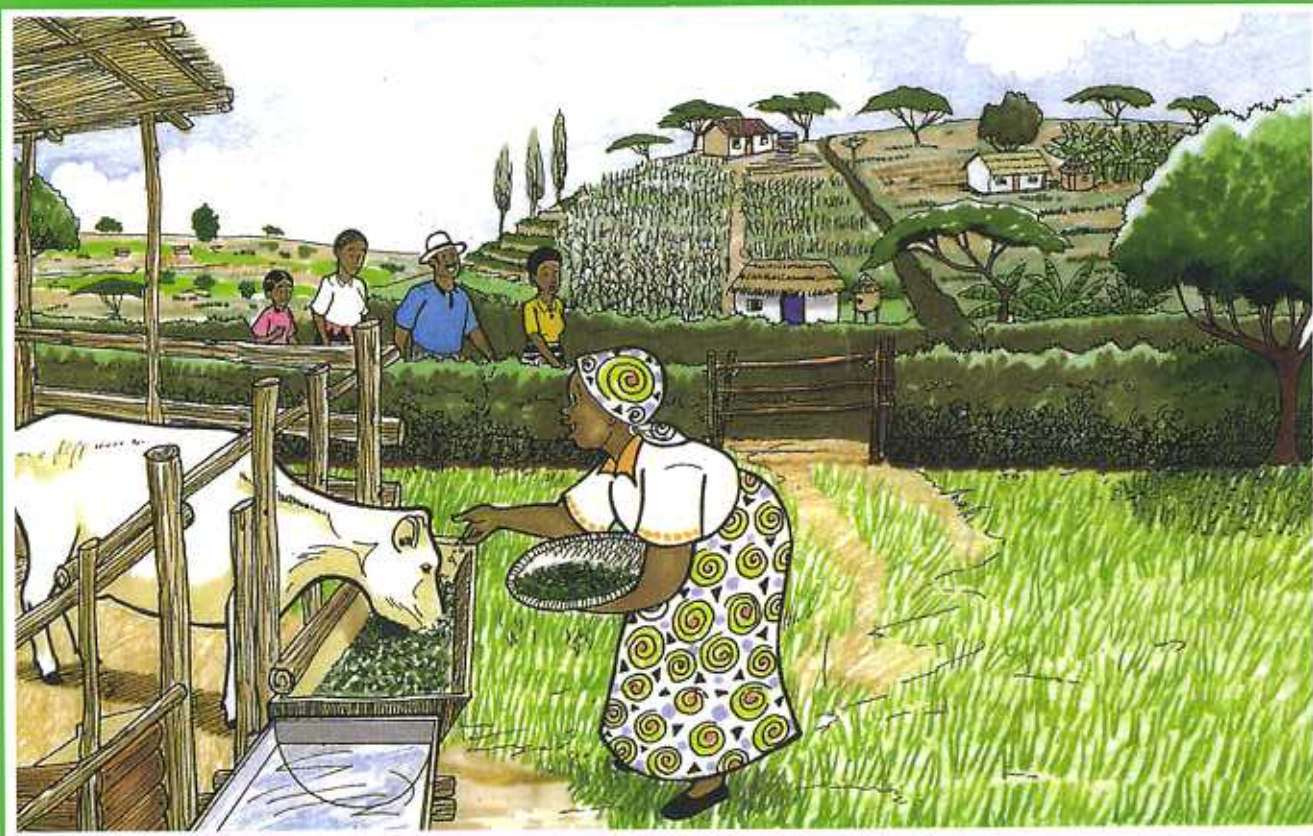


HEALTHY COW, MORE MILK



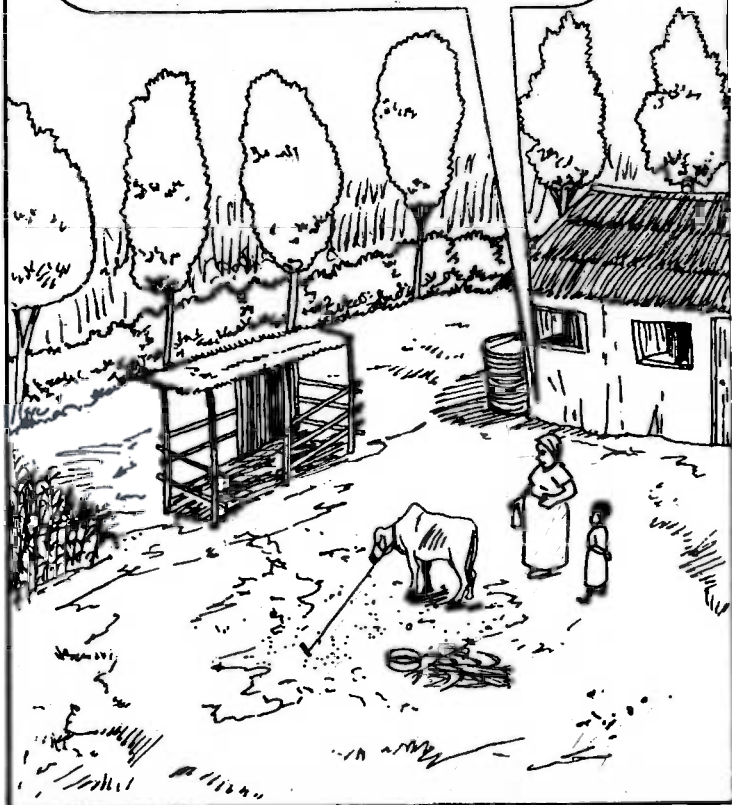
Wambui finds out...

APPROVED BY THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

DFID Department for
International
Development

Mother is standing beside her thin dairy cow holding a half-full bottle of milk and addresses her daughter.

Wambui, our cow, Ngunu has only been giving us a half bottle of milk recently...



Go and get Mwariama, the Animal Health Assistant, to come and give it some medicine.



On her way to get Mwariama, Wambui passes Aunt Mumbi's farm, where she is tending to her healthy looking cow, Munge ...

Good morning, Wambui!
Where are you going to?

I am going to find Mwariama
so that she can come and
deworm Mother's cow.

Look at my cow, Munge, she has a Mdosi boma, ...sakafu iliyo kavu, ...hewa safi, ...mtaro wa mkojo na choo. These are what you need to keep the cow fit and happy.

Tell your Mother not to waste
her money on worm medicine
for an adult cow.

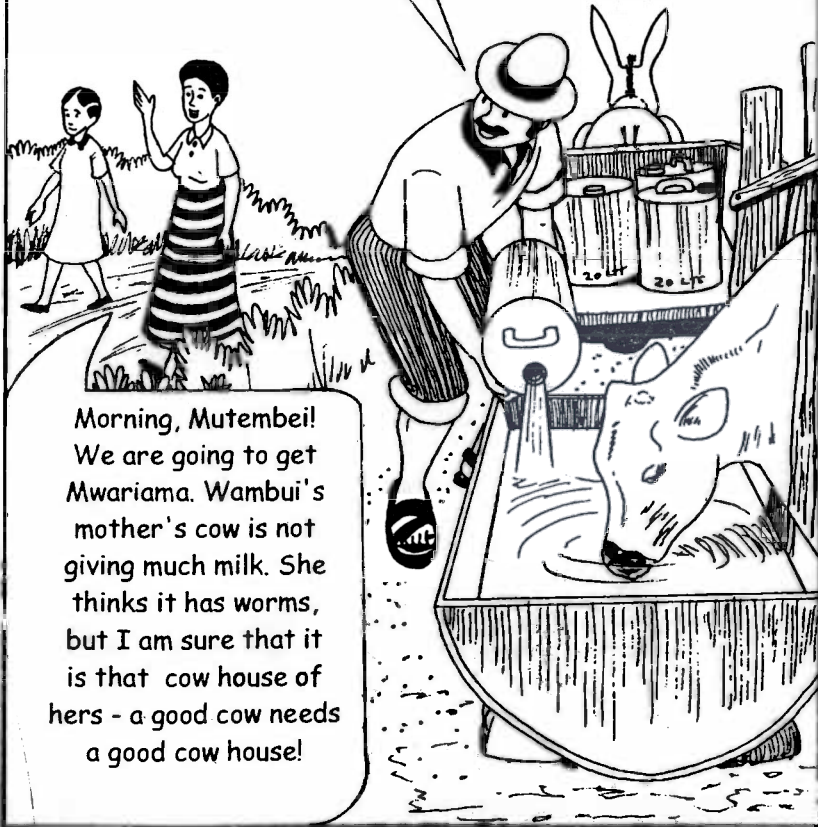
But your Mother's cow is an adult,
it doesn't need to be dewormed,
it just needs to be looked after
better. Good housing is the answer!

But Mother said I had to get
Mwariama, so I have to do that.

Well, I will come with
you and we will see what
Mwariama has to say!

So Wambui and Aunt Mumbi set off to look for Mwariama.
...And on their way they meet Mutembei filling his cow's
water trough from his donkey cart...

Good morning Mumbi. Good morning,
Wambui. Where are you two going?



Morning, Mutembei!
We are going to get
Mwariama. Wambui's
mother's cow is not
giving much milk. She
thinks it has worms,
but I am sure that it
is that cow house of
hers - a good cow needs
a good cow house!

Perhaps its the water! My cow drinks 4 debes
every day! Plenty of clean water - that's the
answer! Tell your mother not to waste her money
on worm medicine for an adult cow, Wambui!

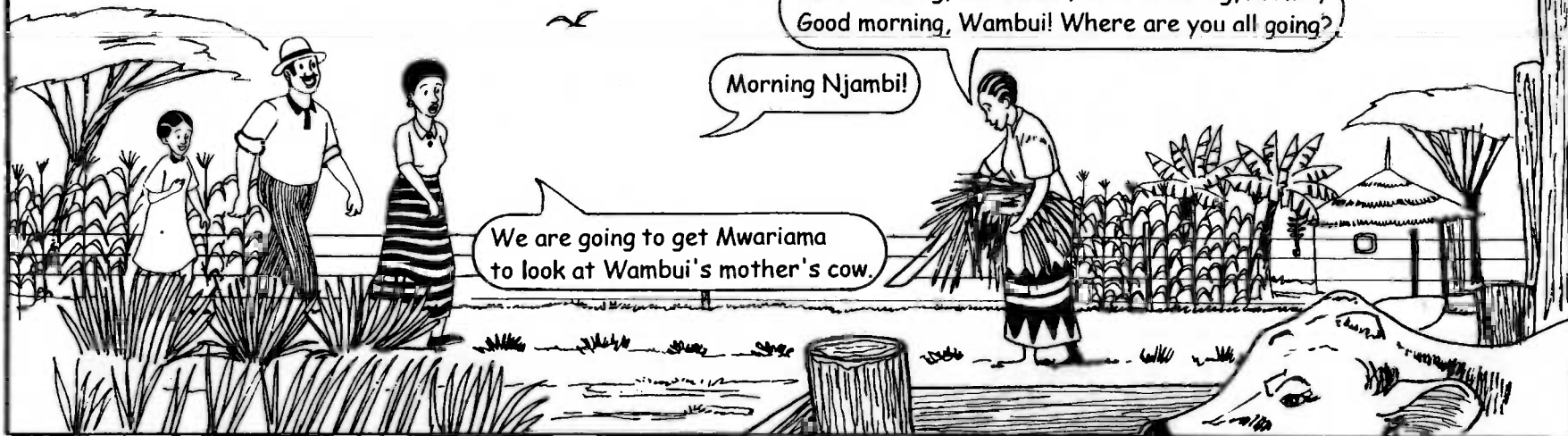


But Mother said I had to get Mwariama
so that is what I am going to do!



Well, I will come with
you and we will see what
Mwariama has to say!

So Wambui and Aunt Mumbi and Mutembei set off to look for Mwariama...And on their way they meet Njambi cutting Napier grass for her cow...



Good morning, Mutembei, Good morning, Mumbi, Good morning, Wambui! Where are you all going?

Morning Njambi!

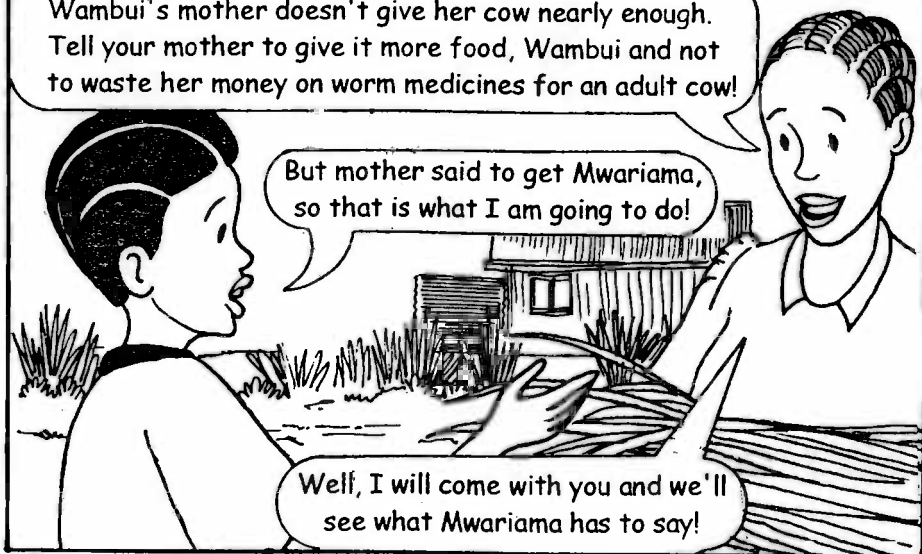
We are going to get Mwariama to look at Wambui's mother's cow.

It is not giving much milk and they think it has worms. I think it is water - if you don't put enough water in one end you won't get enough milk out of the other, that's what I always say!



Also, its the feeding! Look at this Napier grass, Nice and green and fresh! A cow needs plenty of fodder As much maize stover as it can eat and some good Napier as well.

Wambui's mother doesn't give her cow nearly enough. Tell your mother to give it more food, Wambui and not to waste her money on worm medicines for an adult cow!



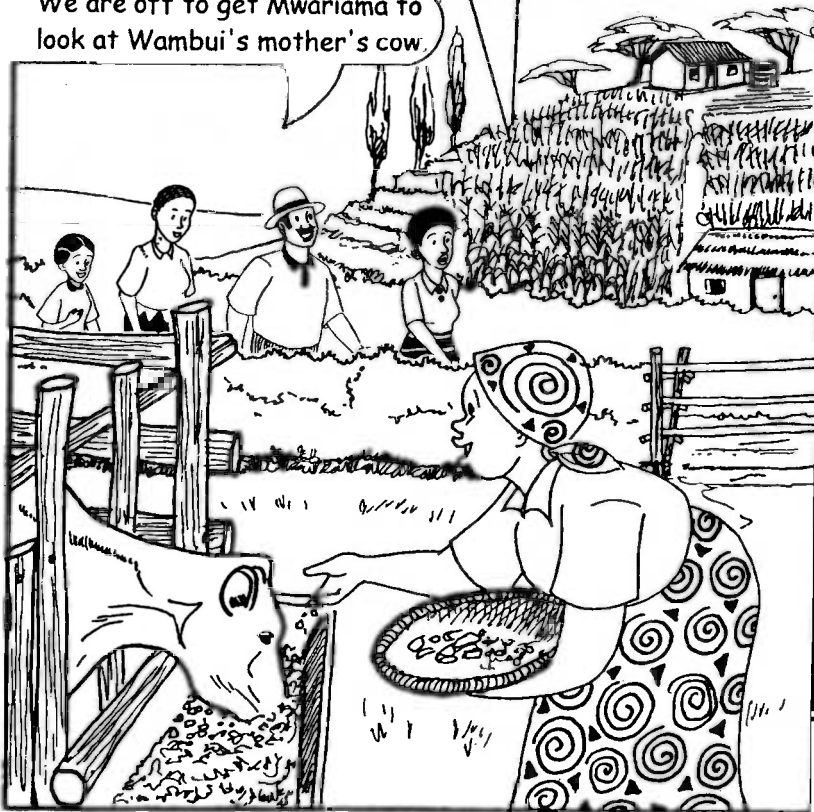
But mother said to get Mwariama, so that is what I am going to do!

Well, I will come with you and we'll see what Mwariama has to say!

So Wambui, Aunt Mumbi, Mutembei and Njambi set off to find Mwariama...And on their way they meet Mama Kari, feeding her cow...

Good morning, Njambi,
Good morning, Mutembei,
Good morning, Mumbi,
Good morning, Wambui!
Where are you all going?

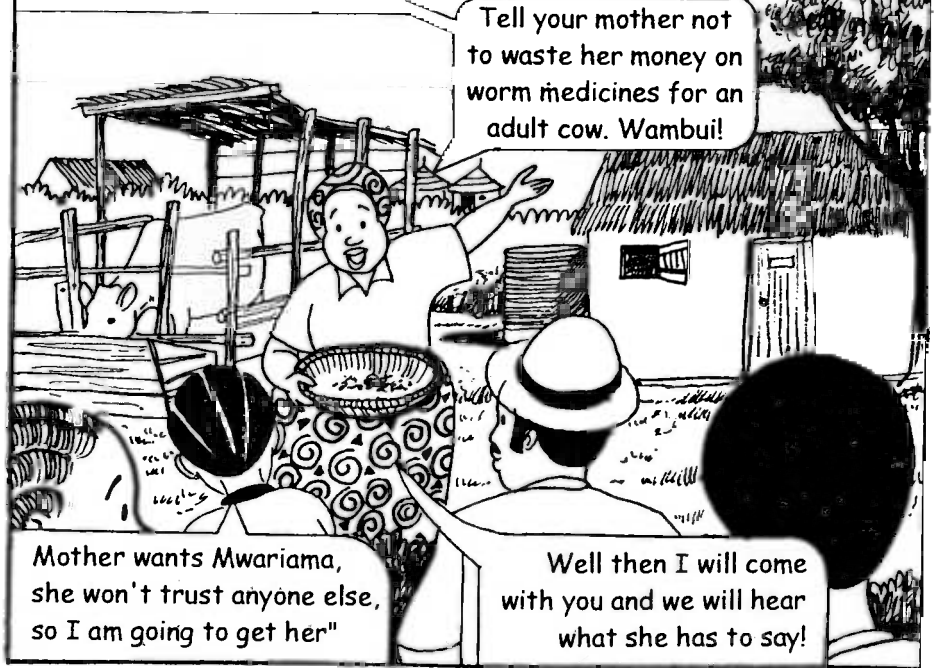
We are off to get Mwariama to
look at Wambui's mother's cow.



She thinks it has worms but I
am sure it just needs more food
- a big cow needs a big meal!

Well yes ... But there are more good things for a cow
than just Napier grass and maize stover, I give mine
crop residues ... and vegetable wastes ... I still
supplement with concentrates, so that I
get more milk to sell!

Tell your mother not
to waste her money on
worm medicines for an
adult cow. Wambui!



Mother wants Mwariama,
she won't trust anyone else,
so I am going to get her"

Well then I will come
with you and we will hear
what she has to say!

So Wambui, Aunt Mumbi, Mutembe, Njambi and Mama Kari, set off to find Mwariama... And on that way they meet Cousin Muriithi

Good morning, Mama Kari, Good morning, Njambi,
Good morning, Mutembe, Good morning, Mumbi,
Good morning, Wambui!

Where are you all off to this morning?



We are off to fetch Mwariama to look at Wambui's mother's cow. She thinks it has worms, but it is just thin because she doesn't feed it well enough -



I agree but its not just as simple as that... You have to make the cow to sosi it! I chop my fodder so that there is less wastage ... and soak some of it in salt to make it taste better for the cow... and if you mix it so that there is some fresh green stuff in with the dry stuff the cow will sosi much more of it! Wambui, tell your mother that if she does these things her cow will feed better and she doesn't need to waste her money on worm medicines for an adult cow.

But Mother wants Mwariama, if what you are saying is right then she can tell her that!
So I am still going to get Mwariama!

Well then, I had better come with you and we will see what Mwariama has to say!



So they all set to find Mwariama...
And on their way they met Wangeeci.

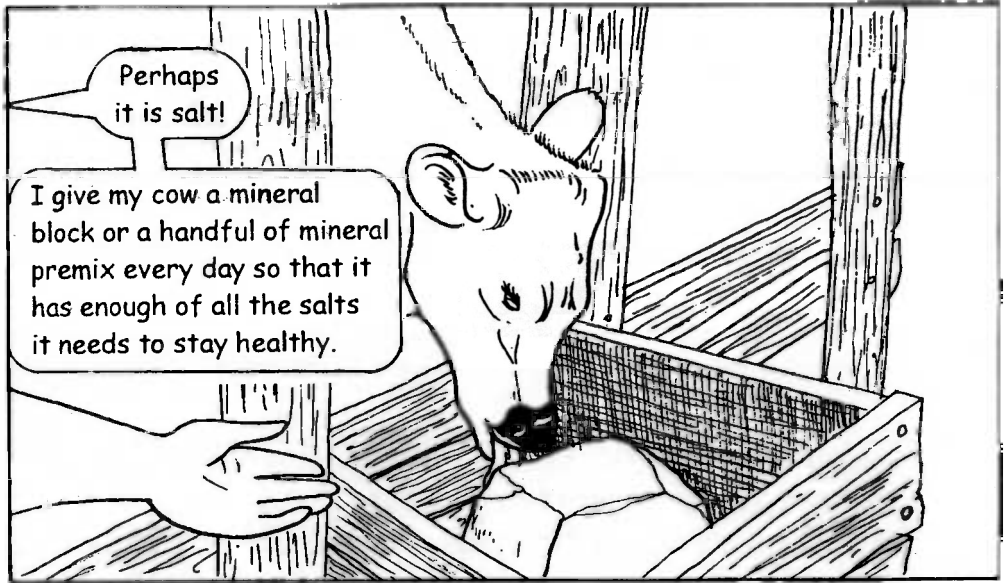
Good morning, Muriithii, Good morning, Mama Kari,
Good morning, Njambi, Good morning, Mutembei,
Good morning, Mumbi, Good morning, Wambui.
Where are you all going in such a hurry?



We are off to get Mwariama.
Wambui's mother's cow is thin
and they want to deworm it,
but I am sure the problem is
just the way it is fed!

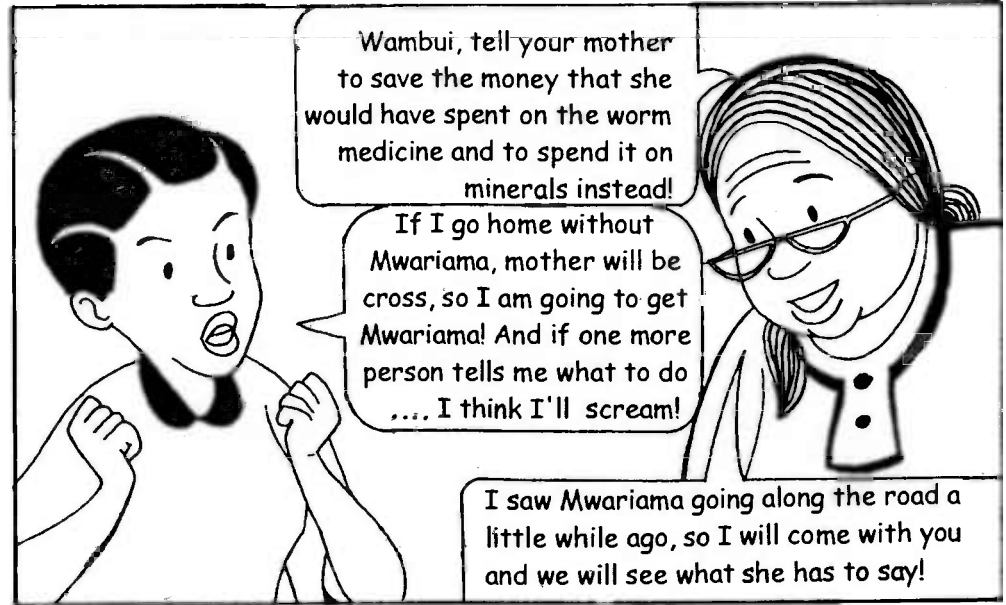
Perhaps
it is salt!

I give my cow a mineral
block or a handful of mineral
premix every day so that it
has enough of all the salts
it needs to stay healthy.



Wambui, tell your mother
to save the money that she
would have spent on the worm
medicine and to spend it on
minerals instead!

If I go home without
Mwariama, mother will be
cross, so I am going to get
Mwariama! And if one more
person tells me what to do
.... I think I'll scream!



I saw Mwariama going along the road a
little while ago, so I will come with you
and we will see what she has to say!

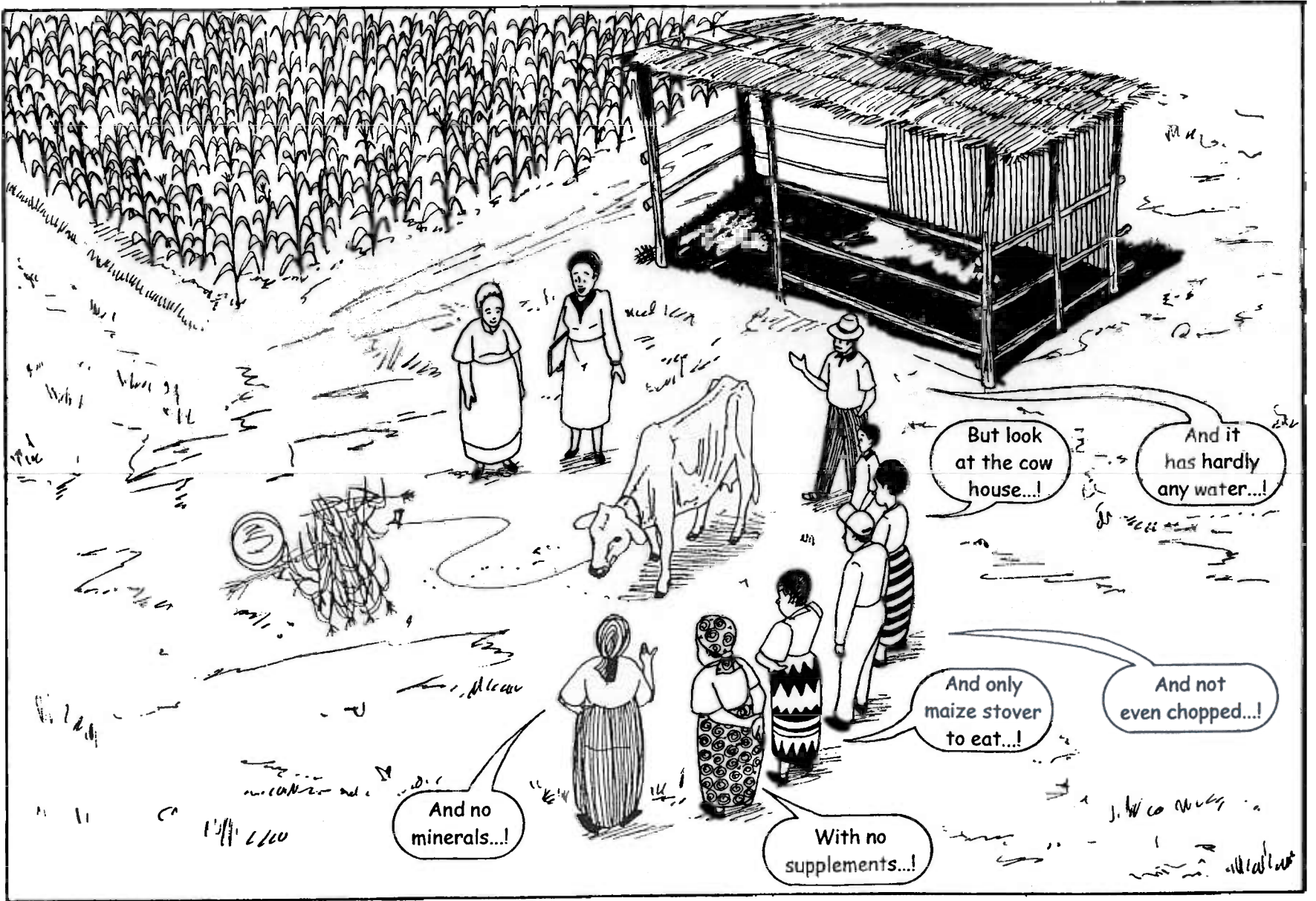
So they all set off to find Mwariama.



Later, back at Wambui's mother's farm the whole group is present as Mwariama looks at the cow.

It is thin isn't it? No wonder it isn't giving much milk. But it hasn't got a fever...and its eyes are not pale...and it has not got any swellings under the jaw...and it doesn't have any ticks...and it is breathing properly...and looks happy enough. And you fenced off the swamp to make sure it didn't get liver fluke so I am sure that the problem isn't worms...





But look at the cow house...!

And it has hardly any water...!

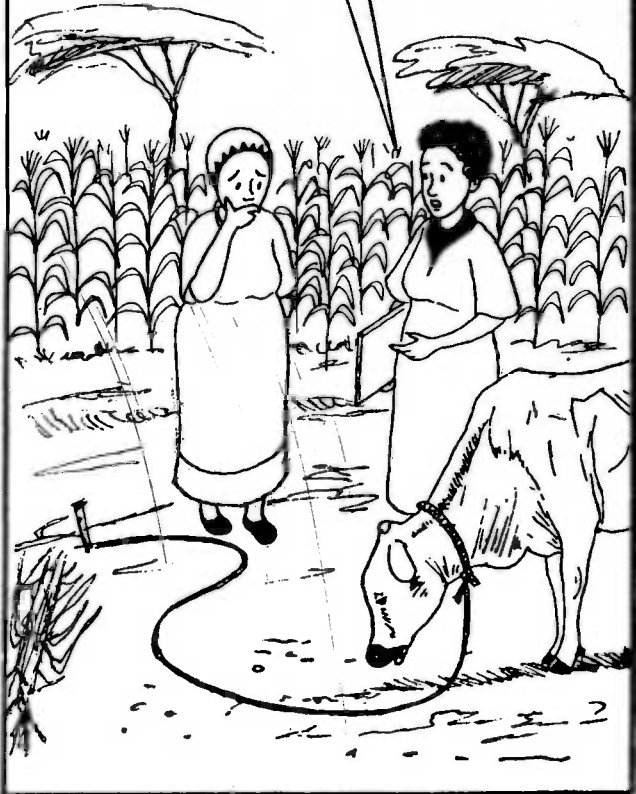
And only maize stover to eat...!

And not even chopped...!

And no minerals...!

With no supplements...!

I am afraid they are all correct.
All of these would make the cow
more healthy and productive.
Simply buying a worm medicine
would not help.



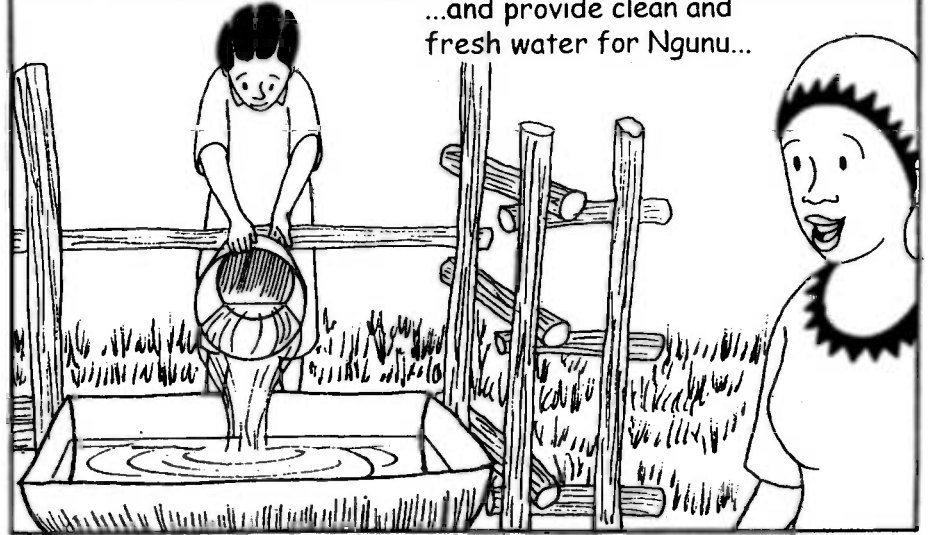
In fact an adult cow very seldom needs to be wormed, unless it
gets liver fluke from grazing swampy places.



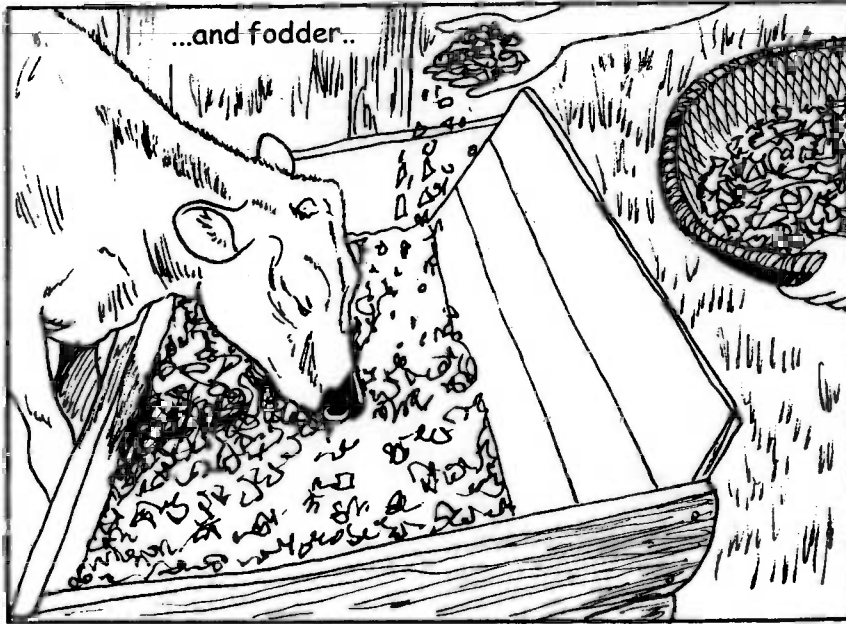
Wambui and her mother build a better Boma...



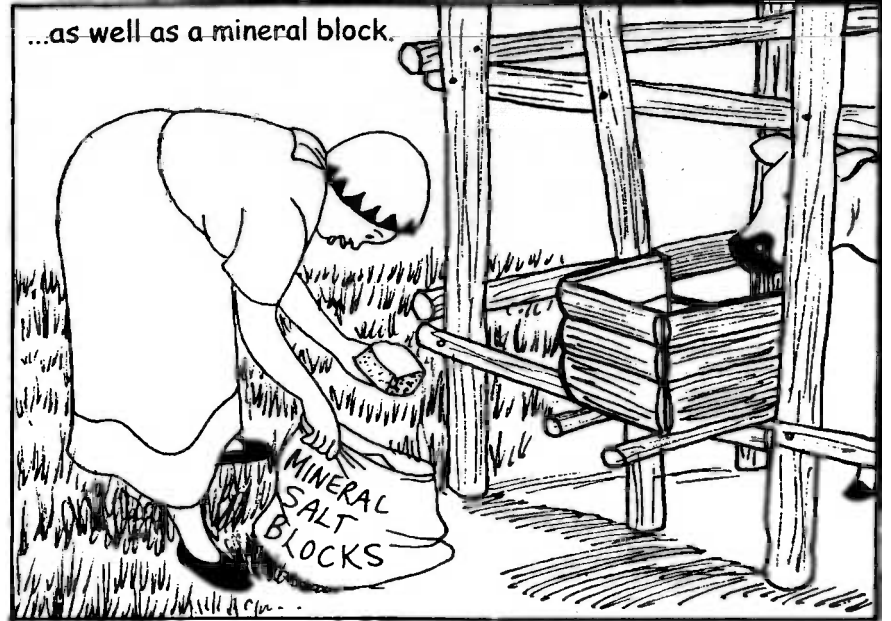
...and provide clean and fresh water for Ngunu...

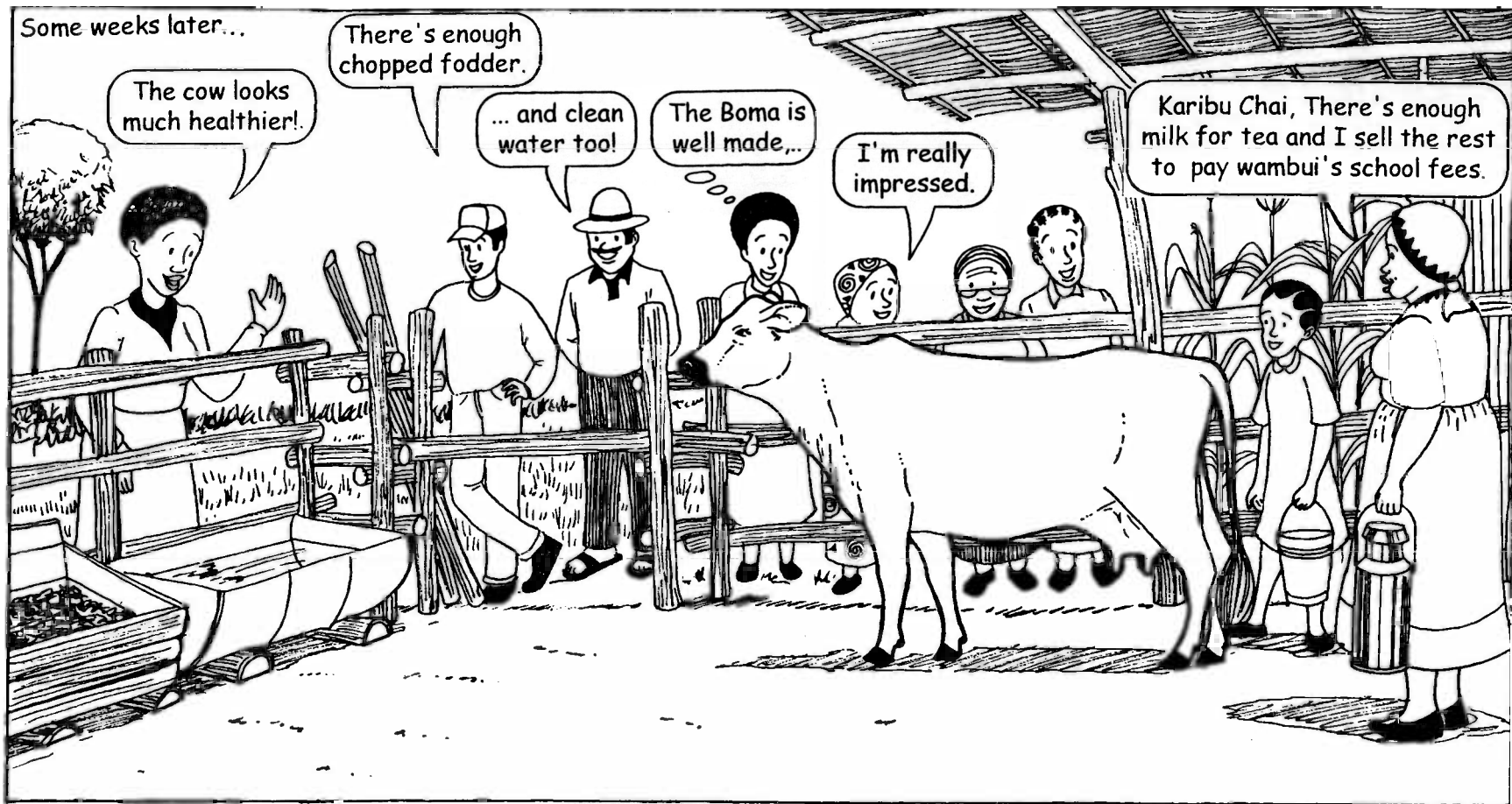


...and fodder...



...as well as a mineral block.





Take this book back home.
Look at your shamba with your
mother or father.

LOOK AT THE BOMA.

- Could it be improved?
- How would this be done?

LOOK AT THE WATER.

- Is it clean?
- Is there enough?

LOOK AT THE FEED.

- What kind of food?
- Do you think there is enough?
- Does the cow get salt?

Compare your shamba with
Wambui's.

- What did Wambui find out
that can help you?

