

contains higher amount of nutrients and its digestibility. Harvested fodder should be feed to dairy animals after chaffing in chaff cutter.

Sorghum fodder sown in summer season should be cut after receiving of sufficient amount of rain. Prolong dry season causes toxicity in sorghum fodder called HCN. HCN is present in sorghum especially during early stages up to 40–50 days. Proper care has to be exercised during harvesting for avoiding HCN poisoning.



Laddu made from sorghum's roasted seed

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SORGHUM: A FODDER CROP **Package and Practices**



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Sorghum is fast-growing, warm weather annual plant that can provide plenty of feed in summer and rainy season. Sorghum is indigenous of Africa continent, though it is being cultivated in India before recorded history. Sorghum crop as fodder and grain purpose is grown mainly in western UP, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujrat, MP, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Sorghum is a major fodder crop of rainy season and fulfills over two third of the fodder demand during rainy season in other part of country. Sorghum is a new crop in Namsai district however, experiment under prevailing climatic condition shown that it can grown here with good forage yield and plant growth. Scarcity of fodder is a major hindrance of dairy farming in Namsai district. Namsai district, however, has good potential of scientific dairy farming, milk production and its marketing which may help to improve the economic condition and poverty eradication of rural farmers of Namsai district. In the Namsai district very limited number of fodder crop has been grown, therefore, to reduce the scarcity of green fodder sorghum new fodder crop introduced and cultivation practices are being explained here.

Land and Land Preparation:

Upland soil free from water submerge condition is suitable for sorghum cultivation. Although, sorghum grown well in sandy loam soil. The land preparation should be started from February mid. One deep ploughing and 3 to 4 times harrowing are sufficient. The land should be made free from weed before sowing.

Manure & Fertilizers:


Sorghum is very responsive to use of the fertilizers. Application of farmyard Manure (FYM) 20tonnes / ha and 100 kg N and 60 kg phosphorus (P₂O₅)/ ha for multi-cut sorghum and 80 kg N and 40 kg phosphorus/ha for single cut sorghum is recommended. Total amount of FYM and phosphorus and half amount of nitrogen should be applied at the time of field preparation. Remaining amount of nitrogen should be applied in two equal split doses as top dressing after 30 days of after sowing. Application of 25 kg/ha zinc sulphate and micro-mineral increases green fodder yield.

Sowing Time: Depending on soil moisture and atmospheric temperature, sorghum can be sown from March to end of July.

Seed rate and Seed Treatment:

15 kg/ha should be used. Before sowing seed should be treated with carbendazim (bavistin) @ 2g for one kg seed for better germination and disease prevention. Sowing in line (30X10 cm) improve the fodder yield. Depth of seed sowing should not be more than 4 cm.

Suitable Varieties:

	Name of the Variety	Green Fodder yield (qt)	
		Single cut	Multi-cut
	CSH-24MF		600
	Pant Chari-6		450-500
	Pant Chari-5		450-500
	CSV-21F	400	
SSG 59-3 (Meethi Sudan)		750	

Irrigations:

Under normal rain distribution irrigation is not required. In case of drought, irrigation at 15 days interval is desirable.

Plant Protection:

Use of any insecticide and pesticide is not recommended for fodder crop. Sorghum crop growing for grain purpose prevention from diseases and pest is necessary.

Intercropping:

In forage sorghum, the mixed cropping is also practiced with fodder legumes, viz., rice bean, cowpea and cluster bean, in 2:1 ratio to improve fodder yield and quality.

Harvesting:

Sorghum fodder is ready for first cutting in about 6-7 weeks after sowing of seeds. Fodder should be cut 10- 15 cm above the ground level. Subsequent cutting should be done after 30 to 40 days interval in multi-cut fodder varieties. Single cut varieties harvested at 50% flowering to full bloom