

Forage may be defined as the vegetative matter, fresh or preserved, utilized as feed for animals. Forage crops include grasses, legumes, crucifers and other crops cultivated and used for hay, pasture, fodder and silage. Forage is a broader term are classified based on various features however, fodder are applied for cultivated plants.

Importance of Green Fodder:

Sun is the source of all metabolic energy. Plants have only capability to conserve the sun energy and made available to animal kingdom. Dairy animals and other ruminants consume plant only hence, are first consumer. All nutrients essential for life

Table :Major Cultivation practices of fodder crops

Crop of the season	Sowing Time	Variety	Seed rate (Kg/ha)	Fertilizer and Manure (Kg/ha)			Fodder Yield (t/ha)
				N	P	K	
RAINY SEASON (June to September)							
MAIZE	June - July	African Tall, J-1006	60	120	60	40	60-70
SORGHUM	June - July	CSH 24 MF, Pant Chari-6, Pant Chari-9	10-15	120	60	60	50-60
RICEBEAN	June-July	Bidhan Rice Bean-2 (KRB 4), BIDHAN-1, Shyamalima	45-60	20	40	30	35-40
WINTER SEASON (October to January)							
OAT	Oct-Nov	Kent, Bundel Jai- 991, JHO-851	100	100	40	40	50-60
COWPEA	Oct-Nov	Type-21, Bundel Lobia-1, Bundel Lobia-2	25-30	120	60	-	40-50
MAIZE	Oct-Nov	African Tall	60	100	40	40	50-60
SUMMER SEASON (February to May)							
MAIZE	March-May	African Tall, J-1006	60	120	60	40	60-70
SORGHUM	March-May	CSH 24 MF, Pant Chari-6, Pant Chari-9	10-15	120	60	60	50-60
COWPEA	March-May	Type-21, Bundel Lobia-1, Bundel Lobia-2	25-30	120	60	-	40-50

Fodders crops are cultivated plant species that are utilized as livestock feed. Fodder refers mostly the crops which are harvested and used for stall feeding. Fodder is an agricultural term for animal feed and fodder crops are those plants that are raised to feed livestock. Deficiency of feed and fodder accounts for half of the total loss in dairy farming therefore, forages are called as backbone of livestock industry. The scarcity of green forages and grazing resources in the country has made the livestock to suffer continuously with malnutrition resulting in their production potentiality at sub-optimum level as compared to many developed nations. Arunachal Pradesh is well known for its ever green vegetation and bio- diversity under hilly ecosystem. Though, it is situated at remotest part of country but possess huge scope of livestock farming. Therefore, to exploit the potential of dairy farming, fodder production has to improve. To create awareness and furnish knowledge on fodder production round the year, hence, importance of green fodder and major cultivation practices are being described here below.

are present in air and soil. Plant assimilates entire nutrients and metabolized in the form of carbohydrate, fat, protein, available minerals and vitamins. Green plants also contain 75 to 90 percent of water. Therefore, green fodder is the important source of carbohydrate, fat, protein, available minerals and vitamins and water. Thus, green fodder and grasses are complete feed for adult dairy animals.

Feeding green fodder increase the availability of carbohydrate, fat, protein, available minerals and vitamins and water hence, feeding of optimum quantity of green fodder helps to increase the milk production.

Green fodder contains comparatively higher amount of minerals and vitamins which ensure better productive health in dairy animals.

Green fodder feeding reduces the inter-calving period of dairy animals and thus increases the life productivity of dairy animals.

Feed nutrients presents in green fodder are more digestible, thus, it promote better growth and body weight gain in growing dairy animals. Grow faster and attaining

reproductive weight at early age increases the life productivity of dairy animals.

Green fodder contain secondary plant metabolites and some have medicinal properties and green fodder provides carbohydrate, fat, protein, available minerals and vitamins in balance quantity, therefore, dairy animals fed with ample amount of green fodder are less prone to diseases.

Grass-based diets enhance quality of milk. Feeding of green grasses and fodder improve conjugated linoleic acid (CLA) isomers, trans vaccenic acid (TVA), a precursor to CLA, and omega-3 (n-3) fatty acid on a g/g fat basis in milk. Grass-based diets improve the quantity of precursors for Vitamin A and E, as well as cancer fighting antioxidants compounds. Omega- 3 fatty acid is considered good for heart. Thus, green fodder feeding is important not only for dairy animal but human too.

Green fodder is bulky in nature. Green fodder provides satiety to ruminant animals, which helpful to different rumen physiology and rumination.

Feeding of green fodder fastening the growth of young ruminates. Grow faster and attaining marketing weight and reproductive weight at early age reduces cost of animal rearing and increases profitability of dairy farm.

Category of Animal	Quantity of green fodder to be given for animals weighing			
	250 kg	300 kg	350kg	400 kg
Milch cows	25	30	35	40

Prepared by: Dr. Santosh Kumar,
Dr. Binod Kr. Dutta Borah,
Subject Matter Specialist (Animal Science)

Published by: Dr. Debasis Sasmal
Programme Co-ordinator I/C, KVK,Lohit, Namsai District.
under

Director, ICAR-NRC on Yak, Dirang, W. Kameng, Arunachal Pradesh

Typed and Designed by: Md. Ziaur Rahman, Programme Assistant
(Computer)

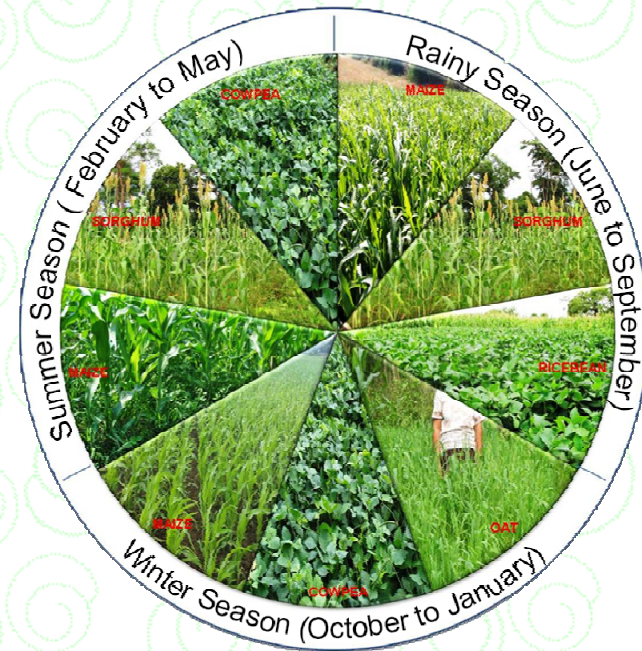
[For further details contact](#)

E.mail : pckvklloit@gmail.com / Ph.No. 03806200100 & 222381

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ROUND THE YEAR GREEN FODDER PRODUCTION IN NAMSAI DISTRICT



Krishi Vigyan Kendra,
Lohit, Namsai Dist., Momong
Arunachal Pradesh

Pin-792102

Under

ICAR-NRC on Yak, Dirang, West Kameng Dist.
Arunachal Pradesh