

Importance of Forages

- Agriculture is the art and science of crop & animal production!
 - Crop production is also to animal production!
 - Animal production in turn for crop production
- Animal population need to be re-oriented
 - Unproductive to be given away
 - We have approximately
 - 20% of world's cattle
 - 50% of buffaloes
 - More than 120 million goats and
 - 60 million sheep (Deb Roy, 1993)
- Natural grazing is limited?!
 - Whether to go for forage or green manure?
 - Crop wastes are recycled & but limited
- Hence
 - Exclusive cultivation and agronomic managements like
 - Control of bushes and weeds
 - Pasture establishment
 - Introduction of legumes/grasses
 - Fertilizer application
 - Cutting and grazing management are need of the hour

Forages - cereals

Fodder sorghum

- Season & varieties
 - Irrigated (Jan-Feb & Apr-May) - CO 11, CO 27
 - Rainfed (Jun-July & Sep -Oct) - CO 11, CO 27, K 7, K 10
- Field preparation
 - Beds & channels
- Seed rate
 - Irrigated - 40 kg /ha
 - Rainfed - 75 kg
- Spacing
 - 30 x 15 cm
- Fertilizer
 - Irrigated - 60-40-20 NPK (50% N at 30DAS)
 - Rainfed – 30-20-20
- Harvest
 - Single cut at 50% flowering
- Fodder yield

- Green matter - 30-40 t
- Dry matter 20-24t,
- Protein -9%

Fodder Pearl millet

- Season & varieties
 - Irrigated (Thru' out the year) - CO 8
 - Rainfed (Jun-July & Sep -Oct) - CO 8
- Field preparation
 - Beds & channels
- Seed rate
 - 10 kg /ha
- Spacing
 - 25 x 10 cm
- Fertilizer
 - 25-20-10 NPK (50% N at 25DAS)
- Harvest
 - Single cut at foot leaf stage
 - 30t green fodder

Fodder maize

- Season & varieties
 - Irrigated - Ganga 5
 - Rainfed - African Tall
- Field preparation
 - Beds & channels or ridges at 30cm
- Seed rate
 - 40 kg /ha
- Spacing
 - 30 x 15 cm
- Fertilizer
 - 25-20-10 NPK (50% N at 25DAS)
- Harvest
 - Harvest when the cob is at milky stage
 - Green fodder
 - 30t Ganga 5,
 - 40 t African Tall

Fodder cereals

- Including teosinte are all cultivated
- These cereals may be intercropped with CO5 cowpea at 1:1 ratio
- Harvested together to get nutritious fodder