

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1945

ANSWERED ON:14.03.2017

Increasing Nutrition in Fodder

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**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government is taking any policy measures to increase quantum of nutrition in fodder of livestock;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of fresh research work carried out by various agriculture institutions with regard to development of fodders and increasing quantum of nutrition therein during the last three years and the current year?

**Answer**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

(a) and (b) Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF), Government of India has already taken necessary steps to increase fodder production in various parts of the country by providing financial assistance to the farmers/ Co-operatives through the States/UTs under Centrally Sponsored National Livestock Mission with a Sub Mission on Feed and Fodder Development under the following components.

S. No. Name of the Components

1. Fodder Production from Non-forest wasteland/rangeland/grassland/non-arable land
2. Fodder production from Forest land
3. Fodder Seed Procurement/ Production & Distribution
4. Introduction of Hand Driven Chaff-Cutter
5. Introduction of Power Driven Chaff-Cutter
6. Distribution of low capacity, tractor mountable Fodder Block Making units, hay baling machines/reapers/forage harvesters
7. Establishment of silage making Units
8. Establishment of by-pass protein production units
9. Establishment of Area Specific Mineral Mixture / Feed Pelleting/ Feed Manufacturing Unit.
10. Establishment/modernization of Feed Testing Laboratories

(c) The research work done and recently initiated at Indian Council of Agriculture

Research - Indian Grassland Fodder Research Institute Jhansi is as follows

Bio-fortification of oats for Zn and other essential elements: Recently a project on bio-fortification of oats for increasing endogenous Zn level has been started. In this, we are screening 300 germplasm of fodder oat for its Zn content and higher Zn containing lines will be used to develop high yielding high Zn lines. In addition, effect of application of Zn to soil on its immobilization in leaves will be studied under this project.

High sugar genotypes of *Cenchrus ciliaris* (Buffel grass L.) for silage making

A representative set comprising 91 genotypes of *Cenchrus ciliaris* (Buffel grass) maintained at ICAR-Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute, Jhansi, were evaluated for two consecutive years for water soluble carbohydrates (WSC) and biomass yield potential. From this 13 genotypes with high WSC content (>70 mg/g) were identified. Out of these, three genotypes viz., IG96-358, IG96-96 and IG96-50 were found at par of check varieties (cv. Bundel Anjan-1 and Bundel Anjan-3) in biomass production potential.

Sugar rich genotypes were further multiplied and used for silage preparation. Based on silage quality parameters four genotypes namely IG96-358, IG96-96, IG96-401 and IG96-50 were found better than others. The lactic acid and pH contents of silage prepared from these genotypes ranged between 1.30 to 3.0% DM and 5.1-5.9, respectively. This preliminary screening of *Cenchrus ciliaris* genotypes indicate that these genotypes had potential to prepare moderate quality silage. It is probably early study where range grasses have been screened for sugar contents and subsequently for silage preparation.

Identified genotypes possess adequate sugar content and have promise to prepare the moderate quality silage for livestock feeding during lean period.