Enhancement in Milk Production through Improved Production Technique of Green Fodder

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Introduction

Unavailability of sufficient quantity of fodder is identified as one of the major constraints in achieving desired level of livestock productivity. The available fodder can meet the demand of only 47% of total livestock population. Since green fodder cultivation is not under farmers practice in Panna district of Madhya Pradesh, maximum animals due to unavailability of sufficient quantity of green fodder, fight to prevent their life. Due to lack of knowledge about improved variety of berseem and their suitable package and practices, the farmers not capable to produce the quantity required per day basis. In view of this, KVK Panna is playing a pivotal role to enhance the production and productivity of berseem (a green fodder) through suitable package and practices that can be beneficial for milch cattle to increase their productivity.

Materials and Methods

Improved seed of berseem cultivar Bundle berseem-3 supplied by Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute, Jhansi (UP) under the National Initiative Fodder Technology Demonstration programme, found to be prominent to overcome fodder problems in the district. Demonstrations of improved production technology of berseem on the farmers' fields were conducted during Rabi 2013-14. Before sowing, seeds should be treated with common salts (10%) to remove the chicory seeds and wash properly. Seed treatment was done with carbendazim + thiram @ 1+2 g/kg seed followed by *Rhizobium* and PSB cultures @ 5 g/kg seeds. Sowing of pre soaked sprouted seeds of berseem (cv. BB-3) @ 25 kg/ha was conducted in well leveled land. The recommended dose of fertilizers N: P: K (20:80: 40 kg/ha) was applied as a basal and top dressing of nitrogen @ 10 kg/ha after each cutting. The data on plant growth parameters and yield were collected. The gross return and benefit cost ratio (B: C ratio) were calculated by using prevailing price of inputs and outputs.

Results and Discussion

Results showed that adoption of the improved production technology by the farmers led to increase in average yield and returns 545 q/ha and Rs. 1, 90,500/ha respectively as compared to farmers practice 280 q/ha and Rs. 97,860/ha, respectively. Milk production of cattle was increased (1.5 lit/cattle/day) due to feeding of green fodder that contributes additional income (Rs. 60/day/cattle) to the farmers. Besides this berseem supplies nutrition to cattle with little supplement of concentrated mixture and improves the physical, chemical and biological properties of the soil that results in better growth and yield of next sown crops. In fact, berseem is considered as king of fodder crop as it is succulent and palatable and available during November to May with 4-6 cuttings.

Conclusion

This technology increased the production of berseem and milk that raised the net income of the farmers which may bring out the socio-economic changes of the farmers. Feeding of green fodders increased the productivity of milch cattle that can promote the farmers to develop dairying as an enterprise..

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