FARMERS' PERCEPTION TOWARDS BERSEEM AND OATS CULTIVATION IN JHANSI DISTRICT OF BULNDELKHAND

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Dairy farming is an important component of the mixed farming system, which has sustained Indian agriculture since ages by providing a strong economical support to the farmers. Milk can be produced at a cheaper rate if milch animal fed with green fodder. Presently the importance of green fodder production is fully recognised particularly in the areas keeping large number of crossbreed cows and high yielding indigenous breed of cattle and buffaloes. Though due to tremendous pressure on our land resources, it is very difficult to increase the area under forage, albeit there is considerable scope to increase the production per unit area and to augment the supply of green fodder. The need for the development of fodder cultivation can be met partially through the introduction of improved varieties and appropriate fodder cultivation practices.

METHODOLOGY

This study has been conceived to test IGFARI technologies at on campus (Farmers' Demonstration Block at research farm) as well as off campus (farmer's field). The main aim of conducting research at farmers' field is to create awareness about fodder production technologies and obtain their feed back on each variety. Thirty-two fodder experiments on berseem (Wardan and JHB-46) and oats varieties (JHO-822 and JHO-851) with the plot size of 25 X 15 m were conducted during rabi season 2001-2002.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

During rabi season the experiments were conducted at research farm as well as farmers field on Berseem and oats crops. The results are as follow

Berseem–The berseem crop is the main source of green fodder during the rabi season in Jhansi district. Therefore two varieties (Wardan and Jhb-146) of IGFARI were tested at farmers' field. The farmers' of the study area were very much surprised to see such varieties of berseem, which do not have even a single plant of chicory (*palak*). Detailed technical analyses of both varieties were presented in table-1 which shows that Bundle Berseem–2(JHB-146) gave more yield than Wardan in Jhansi district and fodder availability period is also more (10days) in case of Bundel Berseem–2 than wardan. Both the varieties of berseem performed better at farmers' field in comparison to farmers' demonstration block at research farm. There might be so many reasons for poor performance at farmers demonstration block such as low fertility of soil, poor management practices, etc.

Technical Performance of BerseemCrop

Character	Green fodder yield (Q/Ha)	No. of cuttings	Seed production (Q/Ha)
Wardn*	355.00	4	2.00
JHB-146*	416.00	4	2.00
Wardan**	833.13	5	3.61
JHB-146**	846.00	5	3.33

*F.D.Block, **Farmers' field

Farmers'Perception on Berseem– When we asked to the farmers about the performance of berseem varieties (Wardan, JHB-146 and local, they gave following statements.

1,2,3&4. Indian Grassland , Fodder & Agroforestry Research Institute Jhansi –284003 (UP)

1. Germination percentage was more in case of IGFARI varieties than local.
2. More seed requires for sowing the same area in local varieties
3. Growth rate of IGFARI varieties was fast than local varieties.
4. More biomass production in case of IGFARI varieties.
5. Local Berseem looks like *palak* and IGFARI Berseem looks like *maithe*
6. Duration of fodder availability was longer of IGFARI varieties.
7. Seed purchasing process is complex at grassland.

Farmers' perception about both varieties of Berseem of IGFARI

Characters	Wardan	JHB-146
Germination	Good	Good
Growth up to 3rd cutting	Good	Good
Growth after 3rd cutting	Good	Slow
Leaf size	More width	More length
Duration of fodder availability	Less than JHB-146	More than Wardan
Over all Bio-mass production	More or less same	More or less same

Oats–The oats crop is another source of green fodder during the rabi season in Jhansi district. The two varieties (JHO-822 & JHO-851) of IGFARI were tested at farmers' fieldas well as Farmers Demonstration Block (research farm). Detailed technical analyses of both varieties were presented in table-2, which shows that the yield of green fodder of JHB-851and JHO-822 was 443q/h and 388q/ha in the farmers' field respectively. Where as, JHO-822 performed better at Farmers Demonstration Block' (research farm of IGFARI). It was observed that the performance of both varieties was better at research farm than farmers' field. Reason was that the farmers were not adopted improved fodder cultivation practices in case of oat crop. It was found that fodder of JHO-851 is leafier which the animals liked.

Technical performance of oats varieties

Character	Green fodder yield (Q/Ha)	No. of cuttings
JHO-822*	588	2
JHO-851*	484	2
JHO-822**	388	2
JHO-851**	443	3

* F.D.Block, ** Farmers' field

Perception of Farmers Related to Oats

1. Less cutting from oats
2. After 3rd week of February field remain fallow
3. When Berseem crop is available, why we grow oats
4. Barley crop serve the purpose of fodder
5. Less bio-mass production

Farmers' were not convinced to grow oats crop

Farmers' Perception on Both varieties of oats of IGFARI

Characters	JHO - 822	JHO - 851
Germination	Good	Good
Growth	Fast	Slow
Cutting	Two	Three
Leaf size	Less length	More length
Duration of fodder availability	Less	More
Over all Bio-mass production	Less than JHO-851	More than JHO-822

Farmers prefer JHO-822 than JHO-851

CONCLUSION

Keeping above results in mind it was concluded that farmers perceived Berseem crop as main fodder crop during the winter season. Whereas dairy farmers expressed their views that oats fodder is good when it is fed with berseem fodder. The seed of IGFARI varieties should be made available to the farmers in a simple manner. So that Institute varieties could be grown on a large scale.

REFERENCES

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