



Research Article

Fodder and grasses production on rangeland of dry eco-system for scaling up of milk productivity

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Abstract : The study on balance sheet of demand and production of grasses and cultivated forage crops on rangeland of Hillocks Watershed of Amarpur-Bedaura-Chamraua were computed and summarized. The main objective was to increase the milk production in the dry eco-system through raising of palatable grasses and forage crops on range land and reclaimed degraded land. The fodder demand has gone up from 16031.0 t to 33848.1 t due to increased of livestock demography from 6973 in 1997-98 to 14388 in 2003-04. Prior to start of watershed management the shortage of fodder 973.4 t in 1997-98 to 15037.5 t in 1999-00 was met from the outside area of watershed but this gap fully filled up from 2000-01 by thriving of palatable grasses on rangeland and growing of forage crops on reclaimed degraded soils. In addition to this the extra fodder was supplied to the outside watershed families from 2000-01. The milk production increased from 683040 litre in 1997-98 to 3027000 litre during 2003-04.

Key Words : Hill and valley, Dry eco-system, Palatable grasses, Rangeland development, Watershed management

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INTRODUCTION

More than 70 per cent population of India derives its livelihood and environmental securities directly from natural resources like soil, water, vegetation, livestock and village enterprises. Escalating demographic pressure has reduced per capita cultivated land from 0.48 ha in 1951 to 0.14 ha by now. Livelihood needs of rural communities are expected to be realized from increased productivity without degrading qualities of natural resources. The management of natural resources in hilly area of Bundelkhand is very difficult task

because it is a part of great Central Indian Plateau, consisting mostly of valleys all around hills, ravines and crags. These odd situations highly confined the milk production due to least supply of palatable grasses and fodder. Thus, the quality milk production in hillocks area can only be possible with the development of palatable natural grasses in range land. The development of rangeland and growing of fodder crops in dry eco-system for increasing the production of quality milk is the subject matter of this manuscripts.

EXPERIMENTAL METHODS

The plot area of 2216.8 ha of rain water management is located in Amarpur, Bedaura, Barupura, Murar, Chamraua and Kilchwara Bujarg Villages of Jhansi district in Bundelkhand, U.P. The pilot site of hillocks and villys is characterized by semi-arid climate, undulating topography, residual soil of erodible nature, deep-water strata underlain with hard impermeable rocks, poor crop husbandry including low fertilizer use and irrigation. The mean annual rainfall is

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