



Inventory of forage grass species from southern Chhattisgarh, India: a case study

Adikant Pradhan¹, Nilamani Dikshit^{2*}, Anil Dixit³ and A. Mahanta⁴

¹Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Raipur-492012, India

²ICAR-Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute, Jhansi-284003, India

³ICAR-National Institute of Biotic Stress Management, Raipur-493225, India

⁴Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana-141004, India

*Corresponding author e-mail: dikshitn@gmail.com

Received: 4th October, 2021

Accepted: 2nd August, 2022

Abstract

Grasses not only constitute the staple food crops but are grown as fodder for livestock, grown in ornamental landscape, soil conservation and for bio-fuel feedstock. Grasslands of southern Chhattisgarh, India mostly described as *Aristida-Dicanthium* type in Kanker, *Dichanthium-Anthraxon* in Bastar and in extreme southern part Sukma represents *Anthraxon-Aristida* type on the basis of dominant vegetation of grass species. A total of 101 plant species belonging to 54 genera were studied during various survey trips in southern Chhattisgarh. Among 101 grasses, 31 were awned and 70 were awnless. Based on palatability, these species were classified into three categories viz., very good or excellent fodder (A), good fodder grass (B) and average quality (C), and included 22, 54 and 25 species, respectively. Among the prevailing habitats, density of grasses in the cultivated field grass (CF) constituted maximum (33 species) followed by density of grasses in the moist area (MA) (19 species). The awned grasses were palatable only either before maturity of awns or after they fall off. Awnless grasses were consumed at all stages by grazing animals.

Keywords: Forage, Grass species, Palatability, Rainfall variability, Southern Chhattisgarh