



Success Story/2023-1

## SUCCESSFUL GREEN FODDER CULTIVATION FOR PROFITABLE DAIRY FARMING IN COASTAL REGION

Authors: Dr. Shripad Bhat, Senior Scientist (Agril. Economics) Dr. Uthappa A. R. Scientist (Agroforestry)

## PROBLEMS/CONSTRAINTS

- Dairy farmers in the coastal region of Karnataka face acute shortage of fodder and are mainly dependent on adjacent districts (~ 200 km or more) for procuring paddy straws.
- Timely availability and storing the fodder are also major problems apart from the higher transportation costs involved in procuring the paddy straws.
- Poor feeding resources result in sub-optimal productivity and poor health of livestock animals.
- The farmer from Honavar, coastal region of Karnataka, is rearing a dwarf indigenous cattle breed Malnad Gidda (2 cows) and was facing the above-mentioned challenges.

## **INTERVENTIONS**

- To overcome these challenges, the farmer was provided with 350 root slips of CO-5 (Hybrid Napier) in April 2022, which he planted on an area of 1000 m<sup>2</sup> area.
- Further, he was regularly provided with technical inputs on scientific fodder cultivation.

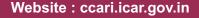
## IMPACT

- Since July 2022, the farmer is harvesting around 3-5 kg of green fodder per day. He has stopped purchasing fodder from external sources and he has become self-sufficient in fodder production.
- One cow is lactating and provides four litres of milk per day. He is preparing ghee and selling to consumers. As a result, he is earning a net profit of Rs. 8,000 per month. He is generating 50 mandays per month of employment at his farm.
  He is also producing biogas from cattle dung which is sufficient for his daily cooking
- He is also producing biogas from cattle dung which is sufficient for his daily cooking requirements, thereby resulting in a saving of Rs. 8,000 per year towards LPG cylinder use.
- He also provided green fodder planting materials to neighbouring farmers (~10 farmers) resulting in the spread of this improved variety.



Farmer with Malnad Gidda cows ADDRESS AND CONTACT DETAILS:

Mr. S. K. Bhat, Devate Kere, Kadatoka, Honnavar, Uttara Kannada District, Karnataka



Ph: 0832-2993097





CO-5 (Hybrid Napier) grown on farmer's field



**Biogas production**