

FODDER PRODUCTION FOR IMPROVED LIVELIHOOD

Success Story/2023-1

SUCCESSFUL GREEN FODDER CULTIVATION FOR PROFITABLE DAIRY FARMING IN COASTAL REGION

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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 m² 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 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.



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



Farmer with *Malnad Gidda* cows



Biogas production

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