Agriculture Update | Vol. 5 | Issue 3 & 4| August & November, 2010 | 252-257 | RESEARCH ARTICLE

An estimation of demand and supply of dry fodder in Karnataka State

P.U. NAYAK, H.S.S. KHAN, M.D. MARTUR AND L.B. KUNNAL

See end of the article for authors' affiliations

Correspondence to :
M.D. MARTUR
Department of Animal Science, College of Agriculture, University of Agricultural Sciences, DHARWAD (KARNAKATA) INDIA

ABSTRACT

In the present study an attempt was made to analyze the changes in demand and supply of dry fodder crops in Karnataka state. For projection of demand and supply of dry fodder, the annual growth rate of production (supply) of dry fodder for different districts of the state were estimated by using the linear regression model. The study revealed that the Kolar district was the highest in supplying of dry fodder and Kodagu was the lowest in the state. The increasing trend was observed in all the districts. The supply of dry fodder increased on an average of 1.81 per cent per annum. Supply of dry fodder increased to 22324.2 thousand metric tonnes by 2010-11. The highest gap was observed in Dakshin Kannada district and the lowest gap was noticed in Mysore district. The supply of dry fodder has decreased and it has stagnated in many of the districts. This may be due to lack of technological break through in fodder production.

Key words : Dry fodder, Demand, Supply, Constraints, Problems, production, Marketing management

Accepted :
March, 2010

INTRODUCTION

India is house to 15 per cent world cattle population and 16 per cent of human population to be sustained and progressed on 2 per cent of total geographical areas. Due to ever increasing population pressure of human, arable land is mainly used for food and cash crops, thus there is little chance of having good quality arable land available for fodder production, and until milk production is remunerative to the farmer as compared to other crops. This has put tremendous pressure on the availability of dry fodder. Dry fodder cultivation has been traditional in most parts of the country since farmers feel that the fodder crops have some factor, which keeps the animal healthy and productive. Therefore, since generations farmers have marked out certain varieties and crops for dry fodder production and cultivate these, depending on availability of land and water. The dry fodder crops are known to be cheaper source of nutrients as compared to concentrates and hence useful in bringing down the cost of feeding and reduce the need for purchase of feeds/ concentrates from the market.

Although, the milk production is the highest in the country but productivity per cow per year is far below as compared to the developed countries due to inadequate quantity and quality of dry fodder. However, the per capita annual consumption of milk is only 56.2 kg, considering the basic requirement of the country to feed its 100 crores people, the milk production has to be increased substantially. Therefore, maximization of dry fodder production per unit area and time within the existing farming systems and by utilizing marginal, sub-marginal dry lands for developing fodder resources is essential. Owing to simultaneous efforts by genetic upgradation of the livestock as well as fodder resources by several improved cultivation practices like, the introduction of suitable varieties of grasses and legumes and by bringing vast culturable and unculturable wastelands (158 million hectares in India), which is not suitable for crop production.

In Karnataka, animals are mainly fed with crop residues of jowar, maize, bajra, ragi and paddy. A few dairy farmers grow cultivated fodders. Practically, it is not possible to bring forage area under irrigation. The only alternative is to have fodder crops that ensure supply of dry fodder over a long period of time under rainfed situations on marginal and sub-marginal lands. Under these circumstances, it is essential to rejuvenate our lands and enhance production, productivity and economic returns over a long period of time.

In present study, an attempt has therefore, been made to estimate the demand and supply of dry fodder in Karnataka state.