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An estimation of demand and supply of green fodder in Karnataka state

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ABSTRACT

In present study an attempt has been made to analyze the changes in demand for green fodder crops in Karnataka. For demand projection of fodder requirement, the annual growth rate of production of green fodder for different districts of the state were estimated by using the linear regression model. The total demand for green fodder increased at an average rate of 1.91 per cent per annum over the years. The projected demand for green fodder will increase to 46210.60 metric tonnes by 2010-11 AD. The increasing trend was observed in all the districts. The demand for cultivated green fodder revealed a gap of about 92.27 per cent. The demand for green fodder in the state represents an increasing trend with a growth rate of 1.92 per cent. Hence, there is a need for gearing up the research and extension activities and to improve the productivity of green fodder crops to meet the demand of livestock industry.The wasteland development programmes for green fodder production also need to be strengthened.

Key words : Green fodder, Demand, Supply, Constraints, Problems, Production, Marketing management

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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 farmers as compared to other crops. This has put tremendous pressure on the availability of fodder.

Fodder cultivation has been traditional in most parts of the country since farmers feel that the fodders crops have some factors, which keep the animals healthy and productive. Hence, generations farmers have marked out certain varieties and crops for fodder production and cultivate these, depending on availability of land and water. The green fodder crops are known to be cheaper source of nutrients as compared to concentrates and useful in bringing down the cost of feeding and reduce the need for purchase of feeds/ concentrates from the market.

In Karnataka, animals are mainly fed with crop residues of jowar, maize, bajra, ragi and paddy. A few dairy farmers grow cultivated fodders like, Napier hybrid bajra and maize, which provide fodder in *Kharif* and summer seasons only under irrigation. Practically, it is not possible to bring forage area under irrigation. The only alternative is to have fodder crops that ensure supply of green 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 pasture lands by introducing promising grasses and enhance production, productivity and economic returns over a long period of time.

Keeping in view, the importance of fodder crops the present study on estimating the demand for green fodder in Karnataka has been taken up.

METHODOLOGY

The study was based on the secondary data on availability and requirement of green fodder for different districts and taluks collected for the period from 1989-90 to 1998-99 from the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department, Bangalore.

For projection of demand and supply of green fodder, the annual growth rate of production (supply) of green fodder for different districts of the state were estimated by using the following linear regression equation to the time series data on production of green fodder of the state from 1989-90 to 1998-99.

$$Y = a + b_t + u$$

where,