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RESEARCH PAPER

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Effect of urea treated paddy straw along with mineral mixture on milk yield and economics of HF cow

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ABSTRACT

Mineral mixture feeding along with urea treated paddy straw can decipher nutrition related tribulations and could be very beneficial to cattle for enhanced production and facsimile ability. Hence, the technology of feeding animal with mineral mixture along with urea treated fodder needs to be demonstrated to the rural farmers of Tapi district. The farming situation of low milk production in H.F. Cow was identified by Participatory Rural Appraisal method (PRA), in tribal dominated Tapi District of Gujarat State. Three treatments were tested in two blocks including 45 H.F. Cows within three years, *i.e.* 2009- 2011. Among all the three treatments, Treatment -3 (T_3) was found beneficial in terms of milk production (kg/day), milk production per unit, net return (profit) in Rs. / HF cow and also got higher Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR). The feeding method of urea treated paddy straw along with mineral mixture has to be implemented in a large scale for better growth and production of livestock.

KEY WORDS : Urea treatment, Mineral mixture, Paddy straw

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INTRODUCTION

Dairy industry in our country is closely interwoven with agriculture and plays an important role in rural economy, mostly in terms of milk, milk products and draft power. Gujarat is a leading state in Cooperative milk marketing. Minerals are very essential for vital body functions, milk yield and other productive concert of cattle/ H.F. cattle. Mineral mixture can help in improvement of mineral status (calcium, magnesium and other micro minerals) of high yielder H.F. cow, but the efficient productive and reproductive animal requires minerals as well as protein. Paddy straw is the major fodder source for livestock in Tapi district, but it is a poor source of protein and it is also having lower digestibility. Urea treatment to fodder is recommended/suggested technology for improvement of poor protein status of paddy straw (Reijntjes *et al.,* 1992). Urea treatment is an economical and less expensive treatment which makes paddy straw more nutritious and digestible at reduced cost. Feeding mineral mixture along with urea treated paddy straw can improve both mineral and protein contents of the ration at lower cost and can also resulted in increasing milk yield (Bhoyar *et al.,* 2010). To demonstrate the consequence of urea treated paddy straw along with mineral mixture in tribal dominated Tapi district, the said OFT was conducted for continuous three years.

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MATERIALS AND METHODS

The on farm trial was arranged in rural farmers of three villages in Tapi district who were contacted door to door. The farming situation of low milk production in H.F cow was identified by Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) method. The associated problems with the farming situation identified for low milk production were as follows.

– Low milk production
– Lack of knowledge about urea treatment.
– Poor livestock management.
– Poor knowledge of health and hygiene.
– Lack of knowledge about feeding management.

From five villages, total 15 numbers of rural farmers each having H.F cow were selected for the on farm trial.