

Tree Fodder for Dairy Cows

Mr. Kanniyappan is farm worker and looking after Pitachandikulam Forests in about 20 ha land developed by Aroville near Pondichery . Barren waste land have been raised with the fodder trees about 40 years back. Now the vegetation is in full stand as thick forests. During rainy season the growth of trees will be much vigorous and they can be pruned judiciously and fed to cows as green fodder and this method is experimented and standardized by Mr Kanniyappan. Daily each cow is given about 15 kilo of green fodder splitted in 2-3 times a day i-e each time about 5-7 kg or so.

During summer time the fodder shall not be cut or minimum harvest with less branches and more leaves alone pruned and fed. In addition concentrate feed and dry fodder can be supplemented.

This practice enhance fat percentage in milk or increased thickness of milk and keeping quality of milk increased (up to 12 hours) compared to normal(4-6 hours) animal feed without tree leaves.

The following tree species are used as fodder:

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| 1. Neem tree | - Azadirachta indica |
| 2. Gliricidia | - Gliricidia sepium |
| 3. Mul Alamaram | - Bridelia rutusa |
| 4. Maramalli | - Millingtonia hortensis |
| 5. Nuna | - Morinda trnctoria |
| 6. Pungan | - Pongamiya glabra |
| 7. Vagai | - Albizia lebbeck |
| 8. Uthiyan tree | - Lannea coromandelica |
| 9. Kiluvai | - Commiphora |
| 10. Subabul | - Leucaena Leucocephala |
| 11. Malaivembu | - Melia dubia |
| 12. Tiruvachi | - Bahunia racemosa |
| 13. Pencilmaram | - Acacia auriculiformis |

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