

THE TANZANIA EXPERIENCE WITH ALKALI TREATMENT OF LOW QUALITY ROUGHAGES

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From an economic and practical point of view the use of low quality roughages is necessitated by the scarcity of relatively high quality roughages: which is brought about by intensive erable cropping occupying land at the expense of grazing and/or by the absence of adequate fodder conservation. In Tanzania the densely populated mountain areas are heavily cultivated and the feeding of maize stover and standing hay to ruminants during the dry season is a matter of necessity. Unfortunately such low quality roughages are characteristically of low digestibility and voluntary intake. Work on the improvement for low quality roughages with alkali treatments which has been done in Tanzania and elsewhere is reviewed. The experience which has been gained in Tanzania show that both digestibility and voluntary intake of maize cobs, maize stover, wheat straw and rice straw are improved. Both the dry method and the Modified Beckman Methods have been tested and in both cases improvements in nutritive value were obtained. For adoption by practical farmers the new Dip and Drain Method (DIP) is being developed for small scale farms and mechanised alkali treated silage making being for larger scale units.

EVALUATION OF PASTURE GRASSES AND LEGUME MIXTURES IN NORTHERN TANZANIA

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The performance of twenty-seven simple unfertilized grass/legume mixture at Coffee Research Station Lyamungu Moshi during 1971 to 1975 are discussed. Buffel/legume mixtures gave 6t D.M. per hectare of 24.9% D.M. and 10.9% C.P. Guatemala/legume mixtures gave 5t D.M. per hectare of 15.4% D.M. and 11.4% C.P. while Setaria/legume mixtures gave 5t D.M. per hectare of 18.3% D.M. and 10.2% C.P. Silver leaf desmodium/Setaria mixture gave 7t D.M. per hectare of 19.2% D.M. and 10.9% C.P. Puero/Guatemala and Sandwich/Buffel mixtures were equally productive and each gave 6t D.M. per hectare. Sandwich/Buffel, however, contained 6.8 and 0.21 less percent D.M. and C.P. than Puero/Guatemala mixtures. The remaining grass/legume mixtures produced between 3t to 6t D.M. per hectare of 15.1-23.0% D.M. and 9.1 to 11.8% C.P., respectively.