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Mitigation of fodder shortage in Ranga Reddy district, Telangana State through technology demonstrations

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Lack of quality fodder in Ranga Reddy district during November - May is a major limiting factor for improving livestock production. During summer most of livestock rely on crop residues like paddy straw, maize stovers, sorghum straw, agricultural waste like cotton stalk, wastages from beverages etc. These feed materials provide low nutritive value, hence animals are undernourished and weak, leading to severe metabolic disorders, reproductive problems, ultimately production goes down. In Ranga Reddy district due to rapid urbanization, very small land holdings and scarcity of water, fodder cultivation is practiced by very few farmers. In the year 2009-10, KVK - Ranga Reddy (CRIDA-ICAR) initiated fodder technology demonstration in adopted village of Pamina, Jalaguda and Thimmareddiguda of Chevella and Shabad Mandal in the form of Front Line Demonstrations. Fodder Jowar (var. MP Chari) was distributed to 81 farmers and provided technical guidance. In year 2010-11, in collaboration with Regional Station for Forage Production and Demonstration (Govt. of India), Pahadishariff, Hyderabad initiated demonstrations with perennial cereal fodder varieties like, Guinea grass (var. Macunae) and Hybrid Napier (var. APBN-1). In the year 2011-12, an impact study showed three fold increases in fat and SNF percentage and 2-3 additional milk collection centers were established. Average family income through dairy per day increased by 4 times. KVK also initiated a fodder cafeteria two years ago with 0.5 acres and now expanded to 5 acres. A total one acre of fodder cafeteria comprising annual and perennial species of 13 varieties of fodder crops are maintained. Remaining 4 acres area is exclusively maintained for Hybrid Napier CO-4. So far 838 famers from 11 districts were benefited (Horizontal spread). The KVK generated about Rs. two lakhs income in one year period. In Ranga Reddy district about 7 mandals were saturated with fodder supply benefiting large number of farmers. Recently, ICAR launched a National Initiative on Fodder Technology Demonstration (NIFTD) involving 100 KVKs across various agro-climatic zones of country of which KVK – Ranga Reddy district is also a part. Attempts are under way to accelerate production of fodder through promotion of comprehensive fodder production, conservation and utilization. This will ensure availability of fodder throughout year.

Keywords: Dairy, Family income, Fodder cafeteria, Fodder Technology Demonstration, Livestock