

**LIVESTOCK FEED AVAILABILITY IN MANMUNAI SOUTH
ERUVIL PATTU D.S DIVISION**

BY



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ABSTRACT

Feed is the one of the significant factor to determine the livestock production. It depends on the availability of the various environmental conditions. Farmers should know the surrounded feed in their location

A study was conducted to determine the availability of feed and their distribution in the Manmunai South Eruvil Pattu division during the period of January 2011 to May 2011. the survey covered 150 farmers from twelve villages which located Kaluwanchikudi veterinary ranges. Stratified random sampling method was used in this survey and data were analyses using descriptive statistics aspect of socio economic features of farmers, management practices, feed information such as rescent available feeds, feed purchase rate, constrain regarding feed in the Manmunai South Eruvil pattu division.

The study revealed that almost more than half of the farmers (66%) had experience more than 10 years, which is sufficient for better management and care for more livestock production. Majority of the farmers were small holders (56%) and medium holders (35%). Almost 42% of the respondents were practiced fully intensive rearing system while 39% were adopting tethering system for livestock farming. With regard to educational level, most of them were coming under primary level (48%) and another 7% of them were not even schooled. Most of the farmers reported that the major constraints (82%) in farm was high cost for concentrate feeds followed by low price for milk production, lack of grasses and grass land, lack of credit facilities, and drought due to lack of water.

Rice straw, rice bran, fodders (Glicidia, ipil Ipil) kitchen wastes ,crop residue were major available feed in Manmunai South Eruvil pattu division. Paddy straw

was available by 80% of farmers meanwhile rice bran, fodders were available were 54%, 20% respectively

Kitchen wastes were used by farmers regularly, such as coconut scrap, vegetable wastes, fish wastes, meat wastes, which are major component of kitchen wastes as a livestock feed. Crop residue such as murunga, cassava, banana leaves were the major crop feed, its available depend on the cultivation and climatic condition. Bundle of paddy straw price was Rs 2500 and rice bran about Rs 25 per kg.

To conclude, the conducive climatic conditions and paddy cultivation in the region are the acceptable merits to the feed industry. But lack of pasture and fodder production, increasing cost for concentrate feeds, less adoption of improved management practices and lack of knowledge about integrated farming are the major limitations prevailing in the division. Taking necessary remedies to uplift the technology involved in feed production and providing a good veterinary support, expanding the pasture and fodder production and educating the farmers the merits of incorporating improved management practices will give a boost to the livestock production.

Key words: feed and livestock production

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