

EVALUATION OF COWPEA VARIETIES FOR FODDER AND GRAIN YIELD

Cowpea is grown as a grain or vegetable or dual purpose crop in Kerala. With the intensification of dairy industry in the state the green fodder of cowpea has gained considerable importance. It is one of the few pulse crops adapted for growing in the coconut gardens during the rainy season and in certain paddy fields during summer. There is very few published reports on the fodder yielding ability of cowpea varieties under Kerala conditions. Fortythree cowpea varieties were grown in 1 meter square plots with out replications and four varieties namely C-152, Culture-2, Newera and V-16 were selected on the basis of yield of haulms for further trials. The new dual purpose cowpea variety Ptb-1 was also included in the final trial.

A field experiment was laid out in the College of Agriculture, Vellayani under coconut garden conditions during 1978 using the above five cowpea varieties in RBD with four replications to assess their fodder yielding ability in relation to grain yield. Of the 100 plants in the net plot of 3 x 1.8 m, 20 were selected at random and harvested for assessing fodder yield when 50 per cent of the plants in the plot flowered. The dry weight of these 20 plants was recorded after oven drying of the haulms for one week at 50°C followed by 80°C for four hours (Yoshida *et al.*, 1972). The grain yield was taken from the remaining plants. The mean data are given in Table 1.

Table 1
Fodder and grain yield of five cowpea varieties

Variety	Mean yield of fodder and grain in g	
	Dry weight of fodder of 20 plants	Grain yield of 80 plants
C-152	237.25	467.00
Culture-2	294.75	413.75
Ptb-1	256.50	278.00
Newera	304.00	381.25
V-16	302.75	390.50
CD (5%)	34.21	79.27

The results show that in fodder yield of Newera, V-16 and Culture-2 are significantly superior to C-152 and Ptb-1. On the other hand in grain yield of C-152 is significantly superior to Ptb-1 and Newera but on par with Culture-2 and V-16. Thus it is seen that V-16 and Culture-2 are the best cowpea varieties for the dual purpose of grain and fodder

സംഗ്രഹം

ഏറ്റവും കൂടുതൽ പയറും കാലിത്തീറ്റയും തരുന്ന ഒരു മാമ്പയർ ഇനത്തെ തിരഞ്ഞെടുക്കുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടി നടത്തിയ പരീക്ഷണത്തിൽ C-152, കച്ചർ-2 ന്യൂഇറ, V-16, പിടിബി-1 എന്നീ അഞ്ചു പയറിനങ്ങൾ യാദൃശ്ചികൃത ബ്ലോക്കു ഡിസൈനിൽ നാല് ആവർത്തി നൽകി കൃഷിചെയ്തു വിളവെടുത്തു പരിശോധിച്ചതിൽ V-16, കച്ചർ-2 എന്നീ ഇനങ്ങൾ ഏറ്റവും മെച്ചപ്പെട്ടവയായി കണ്ടു.

College of Agriculture,
Vellayani 695 522, Trivandrum, Kerala

R. Gopimony
Sunny K. Oommen
V, Gopinathan Nair

Reference

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