

Veterinary Doctor become a Fodder Production Enterprenuer

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My name is Dr. Himanshu, BVSc and Director at **Prajeev Farm Solutions** in Kanpur, UP. I am sharing my experience about quality forage production through good quality seed and best management practices suggested by Mr. Prabhakar Babu a **Certified Farm Advisor - Forages**. There is a continuous challenge to supply good quality succulent green fodder to dairy farmers across the year in my area. Thus, a crop with high yield is a must in order to overcome this challenge and Sugargraze has helped me a great deal in doing the same. I was introduced to Sugargraze by Mr Prabhakar Babu, CFA-Forage and working with Advanta Seeds as General Manager - Forages. Not only did he share the benefits of cultivating Sugargraze but also shared ways to control and treat sweet rot and how to obtain maximum yield per cultivation by opting for single or double cut. I have been cultivating fodder crops in an area, close to 15 acres over the last three years and Sugargraze has remained the go to crop when it comes to supplying fodder from the month of May till the month of September.

Fodder Production Interventions –

- **Right Seed Rate** – Earlier I used 10 Kg per acre, but now with his suggestion I use 6 Kg per acre. It helped me to get more palatable stock with good quality
- **Pest Control** – Earlier I never used pest control measures and the crop got damaged and got less yield. After his guidance, I practiced IPM (Integrated Pest Management) and controlled pest and disease. I got excellent yield with fresh fodder
- **Right time of Harvesting** – I used to harvest the crop at 40 to 50 days crop where there was very less bio-mass yield and very low Brix in the juice. After guidance from Mr. Prabhakar I started harvesting the crop at 80 to 90 days age where I got good yield and 18% brix. Animals eat very well when good brix is there in fodder.
- **Photo Sensitivity** – I was sowing the crop in different sowing periods but after the suggestions, I learnt about photo period sensitivity of the crop and started sowing crop from March to July. This helped to get more yield per acre and saved time and field for other crops in minor season.

The ideal time to sow Sugargraze is March end till the onset of monsoon in July. For multi-cut usage the first cut can be obtained at around 55-60 days post sowing followed by second cut after another sixty days or one can go for a single cut at around 90 days. The yield per acre varies from 350-400 Q per acre in single cut or 200-240 Q per acre in

multiple cut. The fodder is highly succulent and wide leaves makes the fodder all the more relishable by the dairy animals. The maximum height, the plant has achieved is more than 12 feet.

With 18 % BRIX, Sugargraze also is an excellent source for silage making and provides good quality silage. The crop can be harvested at 110 days' post sowing.

Overall, Sugargraze is the crop that has helped me supply 20Q of fodder every day to over 40 customers on a daily basis in and around Kanpur UP over the last three years and help me to become a very successful entrepreneur. I am earning good amounts of money with commercial fodder production and supplies to dairy farmers.

I am thankful to Mr. Prabhakar Babu for his guidance and timely suggestions.

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