



SOME GRASSES IN SUBURBS OF SRI GANGANAGAR CITY

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ABSTRACT

Grasses are important in the economy and development of nation. Grasses has wide ranges including rice, wheat, sugarcane, maize, millet, bamboo, lawn grass etc. A number of grasses are cultivated in the world for providing food to people. Grasses form the fodder resources for large number of animal population of the world. Grasses play an important role in soil conservation as soil binders. In arid regions due to high evaporation rate, low and erratic rain fall and high wind velocity soil erosion is very common. Drought resistant grasses with high growth rate and branching system are helpful in preventing soil erosion in arid areas. The naturally growing grasses of an area play a vital role in soil conservation and fodder resources for that region. A survey is conducting for listing the naturally growing grasses in the suburbs of Sri Ganganagar city. *Cenchrus ciliaris*, *Cynodon dactylon*, *Cyperus rotundus*, *Dactyloctenium aegyptium*, *Saccharum spontaneum* are some grass species in the study area.

KEY WORDS: Grasses, Food, Fodder, Soil conservation.

INTRODUCTION

Grasses are important as food, fodder and in soil conservation. A number of grasses are cultivated in the world for providing food to people. Grasses form the fodder resources for large number of animal population of the world. Grasses play an important role in soil conservation as soil binders. The naturally growing grasses of an area play a vital role in soil conservation and fodder resources for that region. Sri Ganganagar district is situated in the north – western part of India between 28.40 to 30.30 N latitude and 72.30 to 75.30E longitude and at 175.6 meters height above mean sea level. As per the agroclimatic zones of Rajasthan it has been designated as Irrigated North Western Plain Zone- 1b. Geographical Zone- 1b forms North West part of ‘Thar’ desert and comprised of arid and semi arid areas but agroclimatic conditions are quite different from the neighboring areas of Haryana and Punjab. Sri Ganganagar district has four micro-farming situations (i) Plain irrigated sandy loam soils, (ii) Ghaggar Flood & Clay soils, (iii) Rainfed & Sandy soils, (iv) Salt affected soils. The zone has extreme climatic conditions with scorching summer, cold winter and mild rainy season. Dust storm during summer, frosty winter night and ground fog are some of the typical features of weather and rainfall is relatively low in western part as compared to eastern part of the zone. The mean rainfall in zone is 32.6 cm of which 75 per cent is received in the month of July to September. The temperature of this zone fluctuates from as low as 0.00C to as high as 49.00 C. January is the coldest and June is the hottest month of the year. This survey has the objective to list some common naturally growing grasses in the suburbs of Sri Ganganagar city.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Field area included for this survey is 8-10 km. periphery of Sri Ganganagar city. Several field trips were conducted to collect information. Information also collected from local people, farmers and students.

OBSERVATION AND DISCUSSION

Eleven grasses are described here with botanical name, common name and some description.

S. No.	Botanical name	Common Name	Annual/Perennial
1.	<i>Cenchrus biflorus</i>	Bhurat	Annual
2.	<i>Cenchrus ciliaris</i>	Dhaman	Perennial
3.	<i>Cenchrus setigerus</i>	Kala Dhaman	Perennial
4.	<i>Cynadon dactylon</i>	Dhub	Perennial
5.	<i>Cyperus rotundus</i>	Motha	Perennial
6.	<i>Dactyloctenium aegyptium</i>	Makra-ghas	Annual
7.	<i>Desmostachya bipinnata</i>	Daab	Perennial
8.	<i>Phalaris minor</i>	Guli danda	Annual
9.	<i>Phragmites karka</i>	Kilak	Perennial
10.	<i>Saccharum bengalense</i>	Sarkanda	Perennial
11.	<i>Saccharum spontaneum</i>	Kans grass	Perennial

CONCLUSIONS

Grasses are valuable for us economically as well as ecologically. Conservation of grasses is necessary for maintaining ecological balance. This study is a preliminary attempt to give some information about some common naturally growing grasses in the suburbs of Sri Ganganagar city. *Cenchrus ciliaris*, *Cynadon dactylon*, *Cyperus rotundus*, *Dactyloctenium aegyptium*, *Saccharum spontaneum* are some grass species in the study area.

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