



Pigeon pea (*Cajanus cajan*) for livestock feed on small-scale farms

Objective

To provide high quality feed for livestock in lowland arid areas

Description

- Short lived perennial shrub with deep root system
- Food legume with leaves used as forage
- Very drought tolerant
- Good for restoration of soil fertility and intercropping with cereals (sorghum, millets) and legumes (cowpea and groundnut)
- Adapted to a wide range of low fertility soils

Limits of use

- Not adapted to areas over 2000 masl with frost
- Does not tolerate heavy grazing or low coppicing
- Not suited to waterlogged areas
- Not relished by cattle in the immature stage

Management

Field preparation—ploughed field or sown in holes in zero tillage

Establishment—direct sowing at 3 cm depth or transplant seedlings in hedgerows at 1 m spacing between plants and 2 m spacing between rows

Fertilizer—apply 100 kg DAP or manure per hectare

Weeding—slow seedling establishment phase, weed once at the fourth week after establishment and at regular intervals throughout the first year

Harvesting—cut at 0.8 m after grain harvest

Performance

Expect about 20 t/ha dry matter and up to 40 t/ha with application of fertilizer. High quality leaf with 10–15% crude protein

This information leaflet on livestock feeds and feeding technologies for small-scale farmers is developed through collaboration between ILRI and its partners.

For further information, contact

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