



# Common vetch (*Vicia sativa*) for livestock feed on small-scale farms

## Objective

To provide high quality forage for livestock feed in tropical highlands

## Description

- Fast growing annual climbing legume about 75 cm tall
- Adapted to a range of soils but not acidic or poorly-drained soils
- Restores soil fertility and good for fallows
- Combines well for intercropping with cereals, especially oats
- Good palatability and high nutritive value
- Useful for grazing, hay making or cut and carry

## Limits of use

- Intolerant of drought at early stage of establishment
- Not adapted to areas with frost
- Not adapted to waterlogging
- Cannot withstand heavy grazing

## Management

**Field preparation**—well cultivated, uniform and firm seedbed

**Establishment**—broadcast seed at 30 kg/ha at 2–3 cm depth and cover

**Fertilizer**—apply 100 kg DAP or manure per hectare. The main requirement is for phosphate

**Weeding**—slow early growth so weed once every four weeks after establishment

**Harvesting**—at flowering after about 3 months

## Performance

Expect 3–5 t/ha dry matter from a monoculture and crude protein up to 25%.

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

Forage Diversity

International Livestock Research Institute

PO Box 5689, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Asebe Abdena

Email: [a.abdena@cgiar.org](mailto:a.abdena@cgiar.org)



ilri.org

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ILRI is a member of the CGIAR Consortium

Box 30709, Nairobi 00100, Kenya  
Phone: +254 20 422 3000  
Fax: +254 20 422 3001  
Email: [ILRI-Kenya@cgiar.org](mailto:ILRI-Kenya@cgiar.org)

Box 5689, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
Phone: +251 11 617 2000  
Fax: +251 11 617 2001  
Email: [ILRI-Ethiopia@cgiar.org](mailto:ILRI-Ethiopia@cgiar.org)

