



Sesbania (*Sesbania sesban*) for livestock feed on small-scale farms

Objective

To provide high quality forage for livestock feed in the subhumid highlands

Description

- Tall shrub or small tree, up to 6 m high
- Tolerates wide range of soil conditions and salinity
- Withstands acidic soils and waterlogging
- Shows good cold tolerance
- High nutritive value with superior dry matter digestibility to that of most other tree and shrub legumes
- Good establishment, rapid growth and prolific seeder
- Normally used as a cut and carry species

Limits of use

- Short-lived perennial
- Not adapted to areas with frost
- Easily damaged by grazing or poor cutting management

Management

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

Establishment—direct sowing by broadcasting 4–5 kg/ha at 3 cm depth or transplant seedlings in hedgerows 1–2 m apart with plants spaced 25 to 50 cm apart within rows

Fertilizer—not generally applied

Weeding—resilient and hardly affected by weeds in its establishment phase

Harvesting—coppice at 50–75 cm height 3–8 times per year dependent on growth

Performance

Expect up to 20 t dry matter per hectare per year. Protein content of the forage is about 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



ilri.org

better lives through livestock

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

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