

**A STUDY ON THE EXTENT TO WHICH FIBROUS AGRICULTURAL RESIDUES  
ARE BEING UTILIZED IN INTEGRATED CROP-LIVESTOCK  
MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS IN TWO MAJOR AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS OF SRI LANKA**

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The Third world countries suffer with the problem of inadequate food supply, and more important the problem of low animal protein intake. The main limitation to the supply of animal protein through livestock production in Sri Lanka is the insufficient supply of animal feed. This problem to a large extent can be corrected if the fibrous agricultural residues which are a potential source of animal feed could be incorporated into their rations.

## SECTION B

In the survey reported here an attempt is made to investigate the present situation of livestock production in two major Agricultural districts of Sri Lanka (Kurunegala and Matara) with emphasis on the availability and utilisation of crop residues and natural grasses as animal feed.

With the exception of the drier areas of the Kurunegala district, the majority of the farmers owned small herds of animals (1-2 animals). Farm holdings with highland allotments below three acres were a dominant category, and this coincided with the farmers in this category involved more in livestock production. In both districts the animals are generally reared for draft and milk purposes, with more emphasis on the former.

Land under improved pastures in both districts were negligible, and the main source of green feed the animals obtained was from wayside grasses or natural pastures. In the Matara and Kurunegala districts these contributed to 97.3% and 70%, respectively. Generally paddy lands provided seasonal grazing grounds. In both districts straw feeding is practised, and straw constitutes the sole or major proportion of the ruminant diet in drier areas of the districts and the same is true in the wetter areas between the monsoonal rains where even the natural pastures dry off. Various combinations of straw, natural pastures and leguminous tree tops are used as maintenance, growth and production diets. It is clearly evident that in areas where year-round green or dry pasture production is not possible, and in such instances where straw is used as an alternative feed, the calf mortality rate is low, and the milk yield and the number of days in milk are satisfactory. The survey establishes the importance of crop residues in integrated crop-livestock management systems.