EFFECT OF POTASSIUM AND ASSOCIATED LEGUMES ON THE CRUDE PROTEIN CONTENT OF PASTURES IN THE MID COUNTRY OF SRI LANKA

G.G.C. Premalal and S. Premaratne
Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya.

An experiment was conducted at Peradeniya and Dodangolla wher Guinea 'A' (Panicum maximum Jacq.) was grown in monoculture an with three Legumes, namely Stylosanthes (Stylosanthes Hemata) Centrocema (Centrocema pubesceus) and Siratro (Macroptiliu atropurpureum) at four levels of Potassium (o, 30, 60 and 9 K_2O/ha/yr). Three months after establishment of the crop, th plants were harvested monthly and dry matter yield of each plo was recorded for grass and legumes separately. Representativ samples were taken and analysed for nitrogen content using th Kjeldhal method.

Application of Potassium did not have any significant effect o the crude protein content of either grass or legumes in bot locations. Inclusion of legumes in the stand increased the crud protein content of associated grass at Peradeniya and the highes value was recorded with Stylosanthes. Crude protein content o both grass and legumes were reduced at the end of the year a Peradeniya and the values recorded at Dodangolla were highe compared to Peradeniya.

Funded by CIDA/NARESA.