

Introduction

Among the potential fodder crops, which can replenish the scarcity of feed for the hungry animals of Pakistan, Rhodes grass is getting popularity among small holding farmers. Many farmers are getting bumper crop of Rhodes grass in Southern Punjab and Sindh, showing the probability of success for seed production of Rhodes grass under local climatic conditions. Currently, whole required quantities of Rhodes grass seeds is being imported, which makes it inaccessible for small holding farmers due to its high price. This issue can be resolved with the development of local capacity to develop farmer friendly seed production technology of the Rhodes grass

Objectives

- Developing farmer friendly Quality Seed Production technology of Rhode Grass
- Assessment of Rhodes grass for the nutritive value of the green fodder
- Evaluating different factors for maximum viability and germination of stored seeds under local conditions.
- Determining critical environmental factors influencing Seed yield

Crop cultivation



Soil testing of field at PARS

N	0.07%	pH	8.6
P	12.8ppm	EC	1.97 dsm-1
K	240ppm	Sand	45%
Org. Matter	1.40%	Silt	32.50%
Saturation	32%	Clay	22.50%
Zn	0.78ppm	Cu	0.67ppm
Fe	2.81ppm	Mn	1.13ppm

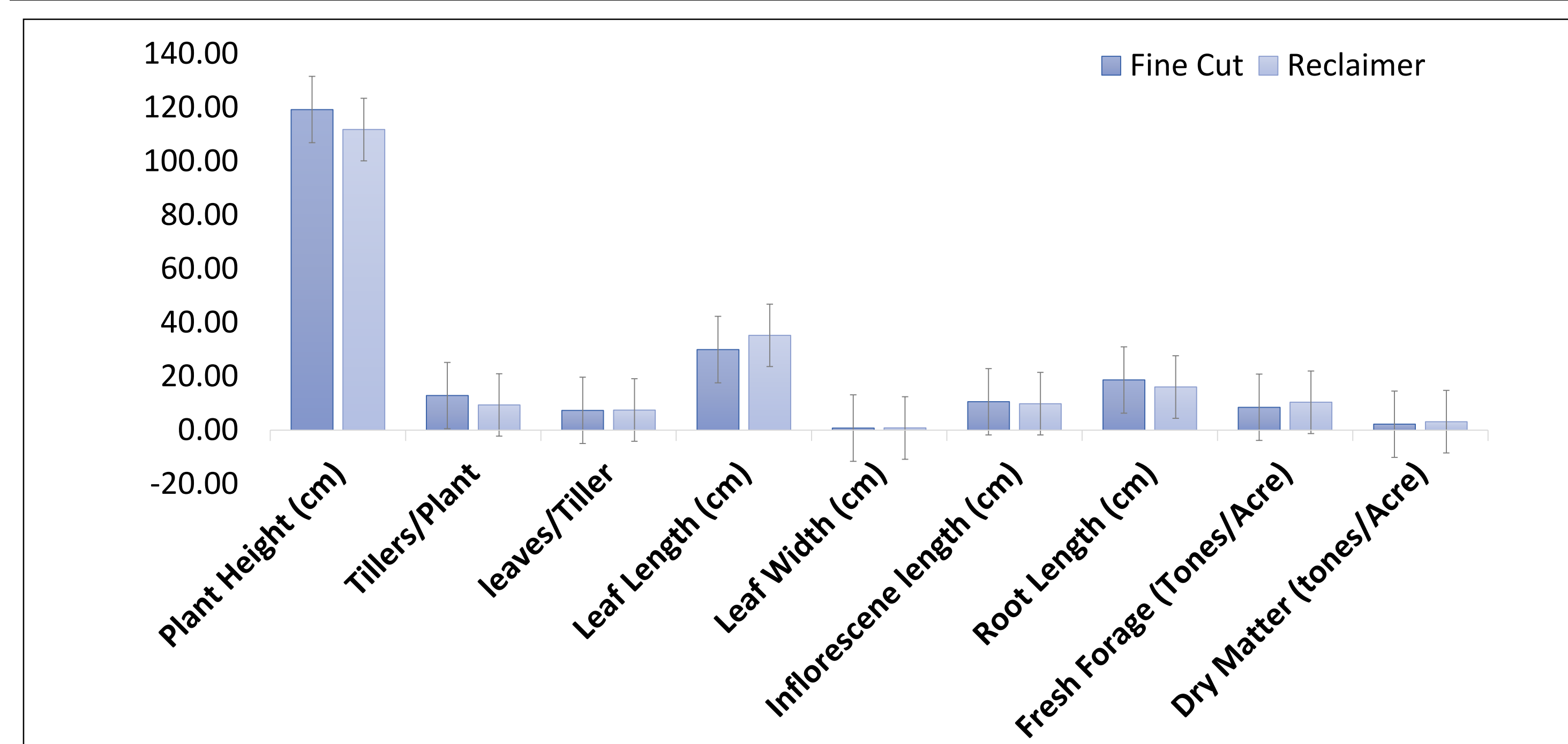
Data recording for 1st cut fodder



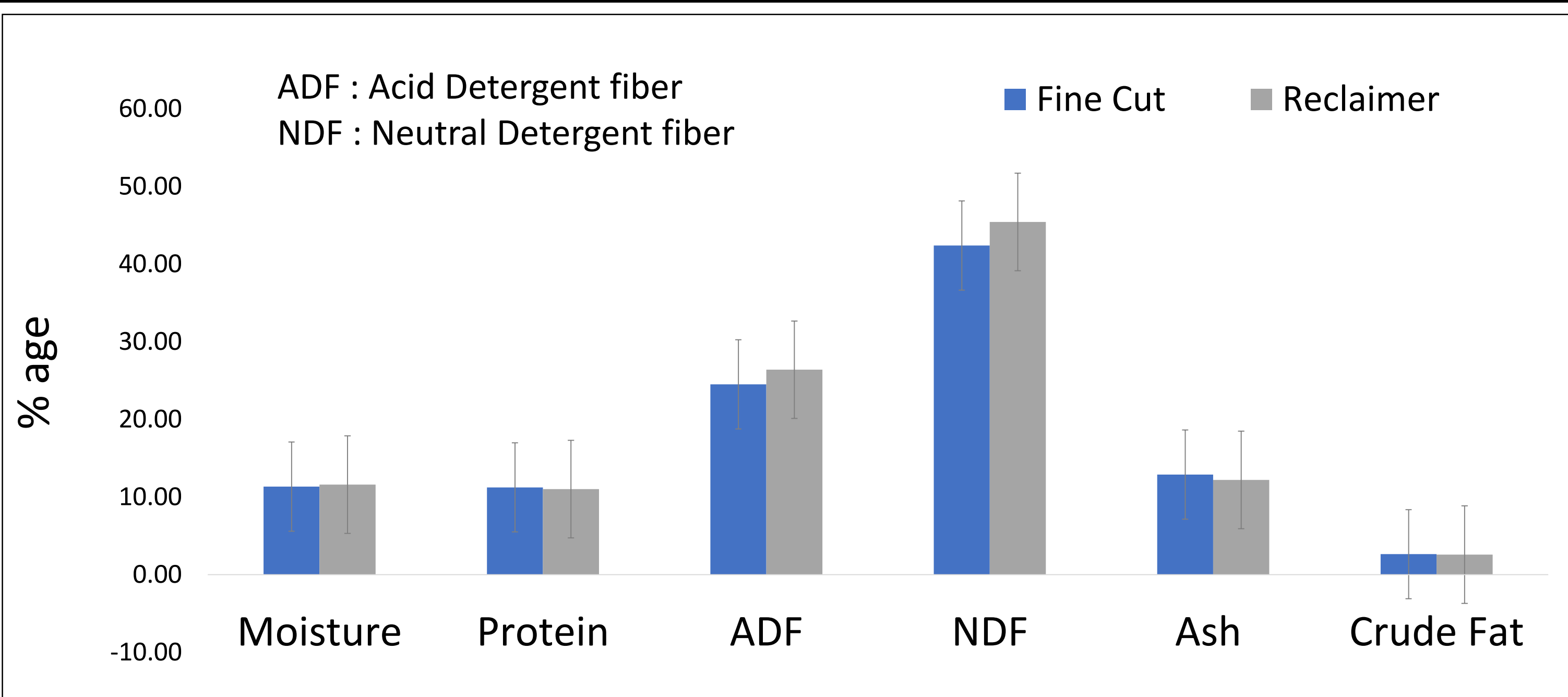
Optimization of seed production protocol



Comparison of yield data between fine cut & reclaimer



Nutrient profile of 1st cut fodder of fine cut and reclaimer



Outcomes:

- Crop cultivation was very successful with forage yield of
 - 7.65 tons/acre for fine cut
 - 9.33 tons/acre for reclaimer
- The plant left for seed production yielded good quality seed
- Seed collection is easy and economical with muslin cloth

Future activities:

- Seed production on the ratoon crop of fine cut and reclaimer
- Application of best seed production practices for getting best quality seed
- Seed viability and germination testing

Aknowledgements

- Dairy Beef Project
- ACIAR