## RASHTRIYA KRISHI VIKAS YOJANA GOA STATE CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS' UNION LTD CURTI PONDA – GOA -404301

## PRODUCTION OF HYDROPONIC GREEN FODDER FOR ECO-FRIENDLY AND SUSTAINABLE MILK PRODUCTION

#### INTRODUCTION

Green fodder plays major role in feed of milch animals, there by providing required nutrients for milk production and health of the dairy animals. In state of Goa feed cost per litre of milk is 75 % of total milk cost, where in green fodder contributes 30 % of value. Rapid urbanisation and mining areas has caused shrinkage of grazing and fodder producing lands. Due to non availability of quality green fodder throughout the year, milk producers are forced to utilise extra concentrates for optimum milk production. On account of this cost of milk production is higher in the state as compared to neighbouring states.

Non availability of irrigated lands for fodder production, higher labour cost, and small land holdings has left dairy farmer with many challenges for milk production in Goa. It is quite evident that with decreasing cultivable land and depleting natural resources, sustainable technology would be the key driver of the dairy industry in the years to come.

#### NEED OF HYDROPONICS TECHNOLOGY IN STATE OF GOA.

Hydroponics technology is required to over come following constraints during conventional green fodder production in the state.

- 1) Small land holdings amongst dairy farmers
- 2) Non availability of fertile land for fodder production
- 3) Irrigation, fencing, land preparations resources are limited.
- 4) Mining and coastal belt has limited area for fodder production.
- 5) Destruction of fodder by stray cattle's and wild animals.
- 6) Higher cost of labour for cultivation practices.
- 7) Poor participation of educated unemployed youths for fodder farming.
- 8) Demand of green fodder is very high against existing availability of the fodder.

#### **HYDROPONICS TECHNOLOGY**

It is a science of growing plants in nutrients rich solutions instead of soil and can be efficiently used to take pressure off the land to grow green feed for the livestock. Plants require three things to flourish, water, nutrients, and sunlight. Hydroponics is a straight forward way of providing all these nutrients without the need of soil under controlled environment conditions to optimise the growth of plants.

Technology has been tested on various crops as Maize, Sorghum, Barley, Oats for producing high quality of nutritious green fodder for dairy animals. Beside this hydroponics can be used for growing wheat grass, paddy saplings etc in seven days of time for optimum growth. Fodder obtained from hydroponics consists of grass with grains, roots, stem and leaves as compared to only stem and leaves part in conventionally grown fodder.



#### HYDROPONIC INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR DAIRY BUSINESS

- To grow green fodder at wider temperature (15° 32 °C) and humidity (70 -80
   %) range without fungal growth.
- Environmental friendly.
- Contamination free fodder.
- Saves water and labour
- Fodder grown is highly palatable and nutritious
- Fodder improves animal health and reproductive efficiency.

#### **ADVANTAGES OF HYRDOPONICS**

- **1. Conservation of water**: it requires just 2-3 ltrs of water to produce one kg of lush green fodder, as compared to 60-80 lts to conventional system of fodder production. Water left over in hydroponics is recycled to grow the fodder.
- **2. Land:** Hydroponics green house requires marginal land to erect the system ie 10 mts x 4.5 mts land for 600 kg green fodder / day/ unit, in comparison to one hectare land for conventional green grass field. Reduction in the amt of land required for maximum fodder production is an asset for both regions where agriculture is difficult and densely populated areas that lacks sufficient growing space.
- **3. Reduced labour requirement**: In conventional fodder production requires continuous intense labour for cultivation to harvesting of the grass, but in hydroponics labour required is 2-3 hours / day only.
- **4. Reduction in growth time of green fodder**: To obtain nutritious fodder requires just over 7 days from seed germination to fully grown plant of 25 30 cm height. Biomass conversion ratio is as high as 7-8 times to traditional fodder grown for 60-80 days.
- **5. Green fodder round the year:** technology is capable to make provision for the green fodder round the year, as per demand .Constant supply can be organised irrespective of rain, storm, sunshine or drought.
- **6. Increasing of nutritive value of fodder:** through hydroponics it is possible to enhance the nutritive value by adding additional growth promoters, nutrients, etc to have quality milk from the dairy animals.
- **7. Natural feed for animals:** growing of green fodder through Hydroponics is completely by natural source. No pesticides are used in green fodder production that could contaminate milk and milk products.

- **8. Enhancement of milk production:** by providing green fodder to milch animals it can compensate the concentrate feed so as to have economically viable milk producing industry.
- **9. Minimising loss of fodder:** Green fodder produced from hydroponics will be fully utilised as there won't 'be loss of the fodder during feeding as compared to wastages of chopped traditional grasses during consumption by the animal.

#### **NEED BASED TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER**

Considering the various difficulties and constrains put forward by the dairy owners and traditional green fodder growers it was decided to have suitable technology for green. Fodder production through Hydroponics in the Dairy Co-operative Societies which will over come the constraints in traditional fodder production and meet the growing demand of the fodder in the state. Project proposal was forwarded to Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana to set up Hydroponics Systems purely on pilot basis in the state of Goa in 2011-12.

As per the project proposal Hydroponics Units were considered in DCS areas.

- Where there no sufficient land available for conventional fodder production.
- Mining area having milk production potential.
- DCS with minimum 50 milch animals who can produce at least 250 lts milk per day.
- Dairy Co-operative Society supported by ST / SC / OBC milk producers having milk production as sole enterprise.
- Coastal belt DCS having no sufficient land for fodder production.
- Hydroponics unit will produce Green fodder per day which is sufficient to provide nutrient rich fodder required for at least 40 – 50 milch animals per day by community efforts.
- Institute where required research can be under taken on Hydroponics Technology to provide sustainable need based technology to the milk producers.

#### PILOT PROJECT IMPLEMENATION

With financial support of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (GOI), Dept. Of Agriculture Govt of Goa as nodal agency and Goa State Co-operative Milk Producers' Union Ltd Curti Ponda as implementing agency, eleven units are erected and commissioned in ten Dairy Co-operative Societies and one Unit at ICAR Complex Old Goa in 2011-12. Units are on pilot basis having Maize Green Fodder production capacity of 600 kg fodder / day.

#### LOCATIONS OF THE HYDROPONICS UNITS IN THE STATE

SLNO	DAIRY CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY	TALUKA
1	Kapila SDVS - Curti ( demo Unit )	Ponda
2	Ramprasad SDVS Khadki	Sattari
3	Rudrakksh SDVS Nagve	Sattari
4	Vithalapur Karapur SDVS Karapur .	Bicholim
5	Bhagavati Sapteshwar SDVS Mandre	Pedne
6	Orlim SDVS Orlim.	Salcet
7	Mallikarjun SDVS Caure	Quepem
8	Cacoda SDVS Cacoda	Quepem
9	Gananath SDVS Nirankal	Ponda
10	Gosamvardhan SDVS Priol	Ponda
11	Dir. ICAR ( ICAR Complex Old Goa )	Tiswadi

#### **ERRECTION OF HYDROPONICS GREEN HOUSES**



PREPARATION OF BASEMENT OF GREEN HOUSE



#### **HYDROPONICS GREEN HOUSE**



#### **GREEN HOUSE INSIDE VIEW**



GREEN FODDR GROWTH CYCLE IN HOUSE



GREEN HOUSE WITH FULLY GROWN MAIZE FODDER OF 7 DAYS



## INAUGURATION OF 1<sup>ST</sup> HYDROPONICS GREEN HOUSE AT ICAR COMPLEX OLD GOA



## HYDROPONICS GREEN FODDER DISTRIBUTION TO BENEFICIARIES IN HANDS OF HON. MLA MR. SUBHASH PHAL DESAI.



## RELEASE OF HYDROPONICS FODDER PRODUCTION TECHNICAL BULLETIN IN HANDS OF CHAIRMAN GOA MILK UNION



**HYDROPONICS GREEN FODDER READY TO FEED** 



#### PROUD FARMER -TIME TO FEED COWS WITH HYDROPONICS FODDER



After erecting and commissioning of the units at different location in Goa yellow maize seed from Karnataka state was made available to the beneficiaries for fodder production. Routine monitoring was under taken to asses the performance of seed germination, green house management, fungal growth and other related problems at beneficiary level.

As far as researchable issues are concerned, as per the project were under taken for complete study at ICAR institute under the guidance of Scientists with constant interaction between farmers, fodder users and technology providers. Within three month of time period following observations were reported by the beneficiaries

- 1. formation of black dots on the surface of the green houses
- 2. Germination of yellow maize seed was not satisfactory.
- 3. water management was not up to the mark by the beneficiaries
- 4. Clogging of foggers in few green houses.
- 5. Effect of light on colour of fodder leaves.

To overcome the issues training programme and technical discussion was under taken to resolve the issues under guidance of Sr. Scientist (Animal Nutrition) from ICAR institute Goa.

#### TECHNICAL SEMINAR & TRAINNING PROGRAMME FOR BENEFICIARIES AT GREEN HOUSE



Important suggestions made by the experts helped to over come the problems

- ❖ In order to avoid fungal growth in the green houses fungicidal solution like EM (Effective micro organism) to be used.
- ❖ White maize seed was found to have better germination rate to yellow maize.
- Water in green house tank should be replaced in every three days.
- Seeds should be free from impurities to avoid clogging of foggers.
- Green fodder leaves have yellow appearance due to excessive sunlight outside of green house.

#### RESEARCHABLE ISSUES AND STANDERDIZATION OF THE HYDROPONICS TECHNIQUE

Various researchable issues under project were under taken for study at hydroponics unit at ICAR, ICAR complex old Goa.

- > Estimation of germination rate based on seed soaking time.
- > Evaluation of nutrient contents in maize hydroponics green fodder
- > Digestibility and feeding practices in Maize hydroponics fodder
- Use of EM ( effective micro organism solution in green houses

- > Standardisation of maize seeds used for Green fodder production in hydroponics house.
- Production cost of hydroponics maize green fodder through hydroponics technology.

Beside above studies other issues pertaining to effect of hydroponics fodder on milk production, fertility, weight gain in calves will be under taken in due course.

Based on beneficiary feedback and studies under taken by scientists below mentioned facts have been proved at initial stage of project implementation.

## COMPARISON - CONVENTIONAL FODDER PRODUCTION V/S HYDROPONICS MAIZE FODDER PRODUCTION (600 KG /DAY/UNIT)

SI No	Attributes	Convention al Green fodder	Hydroponics Green fodder	Savings on
1	Area	10000 sq,mts.	50 sq. mts.	Land
2	Fodder production in days (growth period)	60-70 days.	7 day.	Time saved on growth period.
3	Water and electricity requirement	Very high	Very low	Water and power saving
4	Land fertility	Essential	Not essential	Soil conditioning.
5	Fertilisers	Required	Not required	Saving on fertilisers
6	Fodder yield dependency	On climate rain , water, etc	In controlled environment	No dependency
7	Fodder utilisation by animals	Partial	complete	Reduction in fodder waste
8	Labour requirement	More	Less	Saving on labour
9	Fencing and protection	Required	Not required	Saving on fencing cost
10	Fodder feeding practices	By chopping	Not required	Saves chopping time and labour

#### **NUTRIENTS COMPARISON**

#### CHEMICAL COMPOSITION (ON % DRY MATTER BASIS) OF MAIZE GREEN FODDER.

NUTRIENTS	CONVENTIONAL GREEN FODDER ( MAIZE)	HYDROPONICS GREEN FODDER ( MAIZE)
Protein	10.67	13.57
Ether Extract	2.27	3.49
Crude Fibre	25.92	14.07
Nitrogen Free Extract	51.78	66.72
Total Ash	9.36	3.84
Acid Insoluble Ash	1.40	0.33

### BENEFICIARIES PREFERENCE FOR HYDROPONICS TECHNOLOGY OF GREEN FODDER PRODUCTION

End user beneficiaries and other milk producers opted for green fodder production through hydroponics technology offered their experiences.

- ✓ Hydroponics unit at Mandrem DCS members said that due to hydroponics technology they could save time and money on production of green grass by way of traditional method there by utilising same land for cultivation of other crops.
- ✓ Milk producers at Ramprasad SDVS khadaki expressed that hydroponics is a magic box , our worries in production of conventional fodder by spending money, labour, and dependency on rain, irrigation has reduced.
- ✓ Member of vithalapur DCS karapur claimed that there was 8 % hike in milk production was observed in their milch animals. They were happy to note that due to hydroponics fodder feeding enhancement of fertility (oestrus and conception) rate has also increased.
- ✓ Traditional milk producers at Ansole DCS were happy to run the unit as community Unit. They work together and generate fodder from the unit as one family. This has set a good example of Green fodder production through Community efforts.

- ✓ Orlim DCS members on coastal belt felt that this is the right technology to adopt as fodder generated through hydroponics could save higher cost on concentrate feed to reduce cost of milk production in Goa.
- ✓ Members of Mallikarjun DCS Caure were proud to state that Hydroponics technology in miming area is real asset to their society, which caters fodder need to other DCS members and generate daily income to the unit handling family.
- ✓ Cacoda DCS members reported that Hydroponics Unit is working as fodder factory in the urban area which serves the nutritious fodder to those animals who generally depend on vegetable and paper waste in the city.
- ✓ Visitors across the country visited to the demo unit at kapila DCS Curti Ponda
  expressed the need of hydroponics technology for green fodder production in
  other states also to have sustainable dairy business with lowered cost of
  production.

#### **ACHIEVEMENTS**

- ♣ Successful transfer of Hydroponics technology for green fodder production amongst milk producers.
- ♣ Generation of 600 kg maize green fodder per day per unit through hydroponics technology.
- 4 Appxt. seven kg hydroponics green fodder can replace one kg concentrate feed there by reducing cost of milk production.
- ♣ Seven day Hydroponically grown maize fodder has proved to be more nutritious as compared to conventional fodder of 60-80 days.
- ♣ Standardization of hydroponics technology in terms of seed usage, green house maintenance cost, production cost of fodder in Goan condition.
- ♣ Successful usage of nutritional benefits of hydroponics green fodder for enhancement of productivity, reproductive efficiency and health in milch animals.
- As an income generating source to the hydroponics fodder growers.
- Hydroponics Technology a handy tool to unemployed youths who are unwilling to take up agriculture in fields.

- Hydroponics technology could work as beneficial tool to have paddy sapling nursery, flowers and other vital plant propagations beside fodder production for animals.
- ♣ Conservation of environment and land saving.

#### HYDROPONICS TECHNOLOGY NEWS IN LOCAL MEDIA

## हायड्रोपोनिक तंत्रज्ञानाद्वारे हिरुट्या चाऱ्याची निर्मिती

सत्तरी तालुक्यातील नाणूस व अन्सोळे येथे यशस्वी प्रयोग

नगरगाव, ता. ३ (वार्ताहर) : राष्ट्रीय कषी विकास योजना (भारत सरकार), गोवा कृषी खाते व गोवा राज्य सहकारी द्ध उत्पादक संघ मर्यादित, कुर्टी - फोंडा यांच्या सहकार्याने हायड़ोपोनिक हिरवा चारा उत्पादन संच राज्यातील दुध उत्पादक संस्थांच्या कार्यक्षेत्रांमध्ये आले आहेत. तालुक्यात दोन ठिकाणी असे संच बसविण्यात आले आहेत. त्यातील एक नाण्स - वाळपई येथील विजय पाटील यांच्या 'पाटील फार्म' मध्ये, तर दूसरा संच अन्सोळे - सत्तरी येथील सौ. साकरी झोरे यांच्या फर्ममध्ये बसविण्यात आला आहे. सुमारे तीन महिन्यांपूर्वी दोन्ही ठिकाणी वरील संस्थेने प्रयोगाला सुरवात केली होती. हे हरितगृह साधारणतः २५ फूट X १० फूट X १० फूट या आकाराचे असून, यात दररोज दोन विभागामध्ये ७२ ट्रे ठेवण्याची सोय असते. हायडोपोनिक तंत्रज्ञानाद्वारे माती विरहित हिरवा चारा उत्पादन घेण्यात येते. त्यात बियाणे लावून पाणी व पोषणमुल्ययुक्त रसायनांमध्ये वाढ करून हिरव्या चाऱ्याचे उत्पादन घेण्यात येते.

हिरव्या चाऱ्यात वनस्पतीजन्य



वाळपर्ड : अन्सोळे येथे हायड्रोपोनिक तंत्रज्ञानाद्वारे तयार झालेला हिरवा चारा दाखविताना सौ. साकरी झोरे.

(मिलिंद गाडगीळ) प्रथिनांचे प्रमाण तसेच कॅरोटिन या हरितद्रव्याचा साठा भरपूर असतो शिवाय तंतुमय व विरघळणारी कबोंदके, विविध प्रकारची खनिजद्रव्येही जनावरांना मिळतात. त्यामुळे हिरवा चारा दुभत्या जनावरांना मुबलक प्रमाणात मिळाल्यास दुध उत्पादनात वाढ होते.

हिरव्या चाऱ्याच्या उत्पादनासाठी आवश्यक असलेली जमीन, कामगार व सिंचन व्यवस्था या संदर्भातील समस्यांवर मात करत हायड्रोपोनिक तंत्रज्ञानाद्वारे एकदम कमी जागेत मुबलक चारा उत्पादित करण्याची सोय उपलब्ध झाली आहे. कमी खर्चात, कमी वेळेत आणि कमी जागेत हे शक्य होते. पारंपरिक पद्धतीने प्रतिदिन ६०० किलो हिरवा चारा उत्पादित करण्यासाठी किमान १०,००० चौरस मीटर सुपीक जमीन लागते व ४५ ते ६० दिवस लागतात. परंतु तोच चारा या तंत्रज्ञानाद्वारे केवळ ७ दिवसांत तयार होत असतो. या पद्धतीने ५० चौरस मीटर जागेत एवढे उत्पादन घेता येते. शिवाय रासायनिक खते, मजुरांची जास्त संख्या, कुंपण किंवा सुरक्षितता, गवत कापणी यंत्र आदी गोष्टींची आवश्यकता असते.

सध्या राज्यातून दूध आयात करावे लागते. नवीन तंत्रज्ञानाचा उपयोग केल्यास दूध व्यवसाय फायदेशीर ठरतो.

गोवा राज्यातील सुपीक जिमनीची कमतरता, पर्यावरणाचा असमतोल व मजुरांची कमतरता अशा समस्यांवर मात करून वर्षभर हिरवा चारा उत्पादनासाठी हायड्रोपोनिकसारख्या नवीन तंत्रज्ञानाचा वापर करून राज्यातील दूध उत्पादन वाढीस लावणे ही काळाची गरज आहे. त्यादृष्टीने विद्यमान सरकारने पावले उचलणे गरजेचे आहे, असे मत येथील दूध उत्पादक व्यक्त करीत आहेत.

GO A. DOOT - 14/6/012

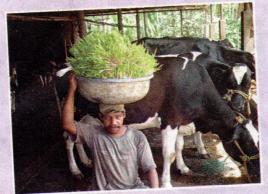
# आता गुरांना वर्षभर हिरवागार चारा

हायड्रोपोनिक तंत्रज्ञानाने वाढणार गोव्यातील दूधउत्पादन!

स्रेश झरेकर वाळपई, दि. १३

द्भत्या जनावरांसाठी बाराही महिने हिरवा चारा उपलब्ध व्हावा, या हेतूने तयार करण्यात आलेले हायड्रोपोनिक तंत्रज्ञान गोव्यातील दूध उत्पादकांना वरदान ठरले आहे. त्याचबरोबर हिरव्या चाऱ्यासाठी आवश्यक असलेल्या जिमनीच्या समस्येवरही हा प्रभावी उपाय ठरला आहे. मागणीपेक्षा पुरवठा कमी, अशी द्धाच्या बाबतीत गोव्यात परिस्थिती आहे. ती पालटण्याच्या दृष्टीने हे तंत्रज्ञान महत्त्वाचे ठरणार आहे.

केंद्र सरकारची राष्ट्रीय कृषी विकास योजना, राज्य कृषी खाते व राज्य सहकारी



द्ध उत्पादक संघ मर्यादित, कुर्टी-फोंडा यांच्या सहकार्याने हायड्रोपोनिक हिरवा चारा उत्पादन संच राज्यातील दूध उत्पादक संस्थांच्या कार्यक्षेत्रांमध्ये बसवण्यात आले आहेत. त्यांत प्रकाश, तापमान, आर्द्रता व पाण्याचे नियंत्रण करून जास्तीत जास्त उत्पादन घेण्यासाठी नियंत्रण संचाचा समावेश केला आहे. हे हरितगृह साधारणत: २५ फूट लांब, १० फूट रूंद आणि १० फूट उंच अशा आकाराचे असून त्यात दर दिवशी दोन विभागांत ७२ ट्रे ठेवण्याची सोय असते. या ट्रेमध्ये हायड्रोपोनिक तंत्रज्ञानाद्वारे मातीविरहित हिरवा चारा उत्पादन घेण्यात येते. हिरव्या

पान २ पाहा ।

GOADOOT

### पान १ वरुन

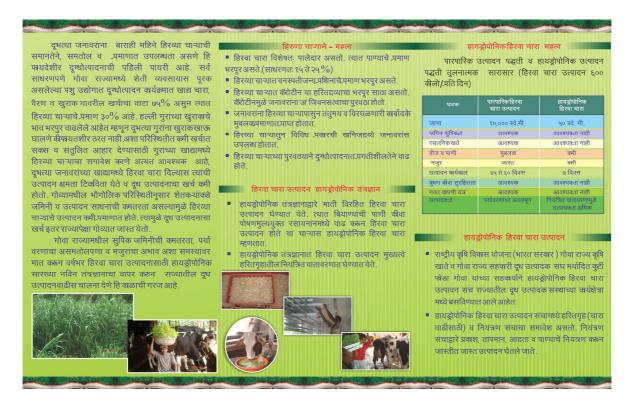
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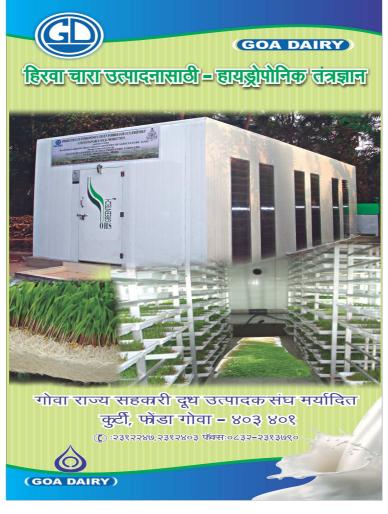
वर्षभर हिरवागार चारा

चाऱ्यात वनस्पतीजन्य प्रथिनांचे प्रमाण तसेच कॅरोटीन या हरितद्रव्याचा साठा भरपूर असतोच, शिवाय तंतुमय व विरघळणारी कर्बोदके, विविध प्रकारची खनिजद्रव्येही जनावरांना मिळतात. त्यामुळे असा हिरवा चारा दुभत्या जनावरांना मुबलक प्रमाणात मिळाल्यास दुग्धोत्पादनात मोठी वाढ होते. पारंपरिक पद्धतीने प्रतिदिन ६०० किलो हिरवा चारा उत्पादित करण्याचे उद्दिष्ट ठेवले तर किमान १० हजार चौ.मी. सुपीक जमीन आवश्यक असते. शिवाय रासायनिक खते, अधिक संख्येने मजूर, कुंपण, गवत कापणी यंत्र आदी बाबीही आवश्यक ठरतात. तसेच एकदा बियाणे पेरल्यानंतर त्याचे चाऱ्यात रूपांतर होण्यासाठी ४५ ते ६० दिवस लागतात. पण एवढाच चारा हायड्रोपोनिक तंत्रज्ञानाने निर्माण करायचा झाल्यास ५० चौ.मी. जागा पुरेशी ठरते आणि चाराही तयार होतो केवळ ७ दिवसांत! शिवाय असा चारा पारंपरिक चाऱ्यापेक्षा सरस असून त्यातील रासायनिक गुणधर्म दूध उत्पादनासाठी फायदेशी आहेत. हायड्रोपोनिक चारा अत्यंत हिरवागार आणि तजेलदार असल्याने गुरेही तो आवडीने खातात. एका दुभत्या जनावराला दिवसाकाठी १५ किलो हायड्रोपोनिक चारा पुरेसा ठरतो.

गोव्यात आतापर्यंत प्रायोगिक तत्त्वावर केवळ ११ ठिकाणी हायड्रोपोनिक हिरवा चारा उत्पादन संच बसविण्यात आले आहेत. पण गोव्याची दुधाची गरज पाहता दुग्धोत्पादन वाढविण्याच्या दृष्टीने हायड्रोपोनिक तंत्रज्ञान सर्वसामान्य दूध उत्पादक व्यावसायिकापर्यंत पोचविण्यासाठी सरकारने पावले उचलली तर युवा पिढी मोठ्या प्रमाणात दुग्धोत्पादन व्यवसायाकडे वळेल, अशी आशा व्यक्त होत आहे.

#### **TECHNICAL BULETINS**





#### CONCLUSION

Natural green fodder is the key to decreasing feeding cost during milk production. However due to climatic conditions, non availability of land succulent grass is available for shorter period in year and not available at all in many regions of Goa. Due to non availability and higher land costs, minimum Utilisation of fodder producing areas to feed livestock, could intern provide more acreage for other crop production, there by improving the economy and sustainability of land. This system also eliminates additional pressure on already over worked irrigation system. The process of growing green fodder Hydroponically allows the control of climatic conditions for optimum growth with guaranteed output per day. In current scenario it is the demand of the dairy owners in the states, were there is low land holdings, scarcity of water, saline water, higher lobour and land cost. It has proved that Green fodder production through Hydroponics technology can be a real alternative source to over come the fodder deficiency in the state.

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