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Growth and Yield Performance of Fodder Tree Species With Intercrops Under Agroforestry Systems in Dharwad Karnataka, India

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| DOI: 10.5958/2455-7129.2020.00004.7 | ABSTRACT |
|---|---|
| Key Words: Agroforestry, Biomass, Intercrops, Tree Fodder | A field experiment was conducted to assess the growth and yield performance of fodder tree species with intercrops (soybean and safflower) under agroforestry systems in Northern Transitional zone of Dharwad region of Karnataka, India during 2018 and 2019 in <i>kharif</i> and <i>rabi</i> seasons. The fodder plantation at 5 x 3 m spacing was established in 2014 with seven fodder tree species. The pollarding height of fodder tree species was maintained at 2 m. The highest current annual increment (CAI) in diameter at breast height (DBH) was recorded in <i>Moringa oleifera</i> (2.31 and 2.12 cm). <i>Moringa olifera</i> attained maximum CAI in tree canopy cover (1.89 and 1.89 m ²). The highest CAI in volume of wood was reported in <i>Moringa oleifera</i> (5.042 and 5.625 m ³ ha ⁻¹). <i>Gliricidia sepium</i> produced the highest CAI in total tree biomass (4.18 and 4.90 t ha ⁻¹). The pooled data of 2018 and 2019 reported maximum green fodder yield in <i>Calliandra calothyrsus</i> (474.17, 586.07 and 429.46 kg ha ⁻¹) followed by <i>Leucaena leucocephala</i> (444.26, 555.33 and 388.73 kg ha ⁻¹) which varied significantly from other fodder tree species at all the stages of pruning intervals (4, 8 and 12 months). Total fodder yield presented for the year 2018 and 2019 showed significantly higher values in <i>Calliandra calothyrsus</i> (1462.89 and 1516.52 kg ha ⁻¹ |

INTRODUCTION

Agroforestry is a sustainable land use strategy for enhancing the farm

productivity and ensuring the livelihood security. It has both productive and protective potential to meet out the demands of ever growing human and livestock population. Despite of large area under cultivation, permanent pastures and common grazing lands, there is a deficit of green fodder (net deficit 35.6%) in India (IGFRI 2050). Under such circumstances, fodder tree species can play an important role to meet out the demands of green fodder especially during the lean period. Grewia optiva, Morus alba, Ailanthus excelsa. Artocarpus heterophyllus, Anogeissus latifola, Bauhinia variegate, Albizia lebbeck, Leucaena leucocephala, Prosopis cineraria, Moringa oleifera, Celtia australis, Robinia pseudoacacia, etc. are some of the important fodder tree species which are rich in crude protein, crude fibers, minerals etc. and are also suitable for integration in agroforestry systems (Thakur et al. 2005; Thakur et al. 2015 a&b). Various studies conducted on tree crop interactions showed that growing of agroforestry fodder trees in systems resulted improvement in soil properties and increase in fodder availability round the year. In India large area is available in the form of farm boundaries, bunds. wastelands etc. where fodder trees can be grown under different systems such as agrisilvicultural, silvipastoral systems etc (Thakur et al. 2004; Gupta et al. 2012). This will ensure the availability of fodder, fuel wood, small timber and wood for paper and plywood industries. Fodder shrubs and trees (browse) play a significant role both in farming systems, where they are protected fallow species. and in livestock as production (Thakur et al. 2011a). The importance of browse increases with increasing aridity and is generally most essential in the dry seasons, when most other feed resources depreciate in quality and quantity (Sukhadiya et al. 2019 & 2020). Generally, trees occupy a significant niche in the farming systems and overall way of life in animal production. The need for increased cultivation and integration of fodder trees (especially leguminous fodder trees and shrubs) into local farming systems through agroforestry is imperative in order to promote livestock production and also the support of rural livelihoods. It is also important to increased research support for the efficient cultivation.

management, processing and use of fodder shrubs and trees for improved livestock production (Prajapati et al. 2020). With this background, a field experiment was conducted to assess the growth and yield performance of fodder tree species with intercrops under agroforestry systems in Northern Transitional zone of Dharwad region of Karnataka in India during 2018 and 2019 in kharif and rabi seasons.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This investigation was carried out to study the growth and productivity of fodder species with intercrops under tree agroforestry systems in Northern Transitional zone of Dharwad region in Karnataka during 2018 and 2019 in kharif and rabi seasons. The study site is located at 15° 26' North latitude and 75° 0' East longitude, with an elevation (altitude) of 678 m above mean sea level. The experimental plot is situated in transitional tract, representing Northern Transitional climate zone (Zone 8) of Karnataka. The experimental area has medium deep black soils. The mean annual rainfall of the site is 777.95 mm. The mean maximum temperature vary from 26.61°C to 36.86°C and mean minimum temperature vary from 13.58°C to 20.92°C. The Relative humidity experienced higher from June to is September months and vary from 61.70 % to 86.07 %. The fodder tree plantation was established in 2014 (Fig 1 & 2) with seven fodder tree species viz. 1. Calliandra calothyrsus, 2. Albizia lebbeck, 3. Leucaena leucocephala, 4. Sesbania grandiflora, 5. Gliricidia sepium, 6. Moringa oleifera and 7. Bauhinia purpurea. The trees were planted at 5x3 m spacing. The pollarding height of fodder tree species was maintained at 2 m (Fig 1). The soybean and safflower crops were sown in the interspaces of fodder tree species in kharif and rabi season. respectively. The field experiment was conducted with Randomized Block Design (RBD) with three replications.

Total volume of wood (m³): Total volume of wood was estimated by the formula as suggested by Chaturvedi and Khanna (1982). The total volume of sample trees was used to calculate the total volume of wood per hectare and expressed in cubic meter per hectare.

Total tree biomass: Above ground and below ground biomass was determined separately and expressed in tons per hectare. Above ground biomass was determined by the formula as suggested by Mac Dicken (1997).

The standard wood densities of 648.30, 660.00, 640.00, 500.00, 1025.00, 600.00 and 670.00 kg m⁻³ for *C. calothyrus*,



Fig 1. Fodder tree based agroforestry system with soybean intercrop

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Current annual increment in growth and yield of fodder tree

The current annual increment in growth attributes of fodder trees as influenced by fodder tree based agroforestry system during 2018 and 2019 is presented in Table 1. The data revealed that the growth performance of trees varied significantly during both the periods.

During the periods of investigation (2018 and 2019), the highest current annual increment (2.31 and 2.12 cm) in diameter at breast height was recorded in

A. lebbeck, L. leucocephala, S. grandiflora, G. sepium, M. oleifera and B. purpurea, respectively, were considered for calculation of tree biomass yield and expressed in tons per hectare.

Biomass yield (t ha⁻¹) = Density of wood × Volume of tree

The below ground biomass was calculated following factor 0.26 (Thakur et al. 2011b).

Below ground biomass (BGB) = Above ground biomass x 0.26

Total tree biomass was calculated by adding above ground biomass and below ground biomass and expressed in tonnes per hectare.



Fig 2. Fodder tree based agroforestry system with safflower intercrop

Moringa oleifera followed by 2.21 and 1.98 cm respectively in *Leucaena leucocephala*.

Whereas, the lowest current annual increment (1.88 and 1.73 cm) in diameter at breast height was respectively recorded in *Albizia lebbeck*.

Moringa oleifera recorded maximum current annual increment (1.89 m^2) in tree canopy cover in both the years. It was followed by 1.69 m² in *Gliricidia sepium* during 2018 and 1.62 m² in *Calliandra calothyrsus* and *Gliricidia sepium* during 2019 which differed significantly from other fodder tree species. On the contrary, minimum current annual increment (1.44 observed in Sesbania grandiflora during and 1.34 m^2) in tree canopy cover was 2018 and 2019 respectively.

| | | Mean | annual in | ncreme | nt (MAI) | of fodder | r trees | |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|---|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---|
| | | 20 | 18 | | | 20 | 19 | |
| Agroforestry system | Dia. at BH (cm) | Can. cover (m²) | Vol. (m ³ ha ⁻ 1) | Total bio. (t ha ⁻¹) | Dia. at BH (cm) | Can. cover (m²) | Vol. (m³ ha-1) | Total bio. (t ha [_] 1) |
| T_1 - <i>C. calothyrsus</i> + FC | 2.01 | 1.56 | 2.70 | 2.21 | 1.83 | 1.62 | 3.32 | 2.72 |
| T_2 - A. lebbeck + FC | 1.88 | 1.54 | 1.97 | 1.64 | 1.73 | 1.40 | 2.64 | 2.20 |
| T ₃ - <i>L. leucocephala</i> + FC | 2.21 | 1.49 | 4.41 | 3.56 | 1.98 | 1.45 | 4.88 | 3.94 |
| T ₄ - <i>S. grandiflora</i> + FC | 2.11 | 1.44 | 2.84 | 1.79 | 1.88 | 1.34 | 3.41 | 2.15 |
| T_5 - G. sepium + FC | 2.16 | 1.69 | 3.23 | 4.18 | 1.93 | 1.62 | 3.79 | 4.90 |
| T_6 - <i>M. oleifera</i> + FC | 2.31 | 1.89 | 5.04 | 3.81 | 2.12 | 1.89 | 5.62 | 4.25 |
| T ₇ - <i>B. purpurea</i> + FC | 1.90 | 1.46 | 2.34 | 1.98 | 1.83 | 1.42 | 3.15 | 2.67 |
| Mean | 1.82 | 1.39 | 2.82 | 2.40 | 1.66 | 1.34 | 3.35 | 2.85 |
| SEm ± | 0.056 | 0.03 | 0.11 | 0.11 | 0.02 | 0.038 | 0.04 | 0.04 |
| CD @ 5% | 0.171 | 0.11 | 0.36 | 0.34 | 0.06 | 0.115 | 0.12 | 0.12 |
| $\mathbf{D}\mathbf{O}$ \mathbf{D}^{\prime} 110 \mathbf{U} \mathbf{U} 1 | | D . | 1 1 • | 1. | | | | |

| Table 1. | Current annual | increment (C. | AI) of fodder | trees as | influenced | by fodder | tree b | based |
|----------|------------------|----------------|---------------|----------|------------|-----------|--------|-------|
| | agroforestry sys | stem during th | e period of | 2018 and | 1 2019. | | | |

FC= Field Crop; Vol. = Volume; Dia. = Diameter; bio = biomass;

BH = Breast Height; Can. = Canopy

The highest current annual increment (5.042 and 5.625 m³ ha⁻¹) in volume of wood was recorded in *Moringa oleifera* followed by 4.414 and 4.880 m³ ha⁻¹ in *Leucaena leucocephala* during 2018 and 2019 respectively. However, *Albizia lebbeck* recorded the lowest current annual increment (1.973 2.642 m³ ha⁻¹) in volume of wood during the study periods respectively.

Gliricidia sepium recorded the highest current annual increment (4.18 and 4.90 t ha⁻¹) in total tree biomass followed by 3.81 and 4.25 t ha⁻¹ in *Moringa oleifera* during 2018 and 2019 respectively as compared to other fodder tree species studied. On the contrary, the lowest current annual increment (1.64 t ha⁻¹) in total tree biomass was observed in *Albizia lebbeck* during 2018 and 2.151 t ha⁻¹ in *Sesbania* grandiflora during 2019 (Table 1).

Among the similar studies examined, Pinyopusarerk and House (1993) revealed that *Casuaruna equisetifolia* on favourable sites can yield MAIs of 15 m³ ha⁻¹ at 10 years. Height growth tapers off when the trees are 7 year old, and volume increments at about 20 years. While trees can attain ages of 40-50 years, rotations of 8-15 years are used for production of wood fuel (Lamprecht 1990). Depending on site quality, a MAI of 6-20 m³ ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹ can be expected.

Lamprecht (1990) reported that *Gmelina arborea* plantations attain high MAI of 20-25 m³ ha⁻¹ on fresh, well drained, fertile soils. Rotations of 5-8 years seem most common and MAI is usually between 12 and 50 m³ ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹.

Experiences from three South American countries emphasize the wide range of growth rates. In Brazil, *G. arborea* was reported to yield 38 m³ ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹ on a 10 year rotation. In Colombia total volume production was 27.5 m³ ha⁻¹ at 3 years (Newman, 1981). In Costa Rica MAI ranges between 7.1 and 55 m³ ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹ (Vasquez and Ugalde 1994).

Pure mahogany plantations in Indonesia reach a maximum MAI of 18 m³ ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹ in 20 years on the best sites. On poor sites, the maximum MAI of 13 m³ ha⁻¹ yr^{-1} may not be achieved until 50 years. Mahogany plantations in Martinique have a maximum MAI of over 30 m³ ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹ on the best sites (Tiller 1995), although 14-25 m³ ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹ are more usual. Plantations in neighbouring Guadeloupe are less productive, with the best giving 17 m³ ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹ over the first 25 years (Soubieux 1983, Mayhew and Newton 1998).

Green fodder yield (kg ha⁻¹)

The data pertaining to green fodder yield at various pruning intervals (Ist pruning at 4 MAT, 2nd pruning at 8 MAT and 3rd pruning at 12 MAT) as influenced by fodder tree based agroforestry system during 2018 and 2019 is presented in Table 2. The green fodder data depicted that the tree fodder yield differed significantly among different agroforestry systems during both the periods of investigation.

During the periods of investigation in 2018, the highest green fodder yield (463.05, 565.54 and 434.30 kg ha⁻¹) was registered in *Calliandra calothyrsus* followed by 437.08, 546.35 and 382.45 kg ha⁻¹in *Leucaena leucocephala* at all the stages of pruning intervals. In comparison to other systems, the performance of *Albizia lebbeck* was minimum with yield values of 122.41, 147.58 and 124.95 kg ha⁻¹ at various stages of pruning intervals.

During 2019, the maximum green fodder yield (485.29, 606.61 and 424.62 kg ha⁻¹) was recorded in *Calliandra calothyrsus* followed by 451.44, 564.30 and 395.01 kg ha⁻¹ in *Leucaena leucocephala* at all the stages of pruning intervals. *Albizia lebbeck* showed a significant reduction in green fodder yield with the least values of 136.69, 170.86 and 119.60 kg ha⁻¹ at various stages of pruning intervals (4, 8 and 12 MAT).

The pooled data of 2018 and 2019 showed the maximum green fodder yield (474.17, 586.07 and 429.46 kg ha⁻¹) in *Calliandra calothyrsus* followed by *L. leucocephala* (444.26, 555.33 and 388.73 kg ha⁻¹). Whereas, the minimum green fodder yield (129.55, 159.22 and 122.28 kg ha⁻¹) was registered in *Albizia lebbeck* at various stages of pruning intervals. The highest pooled total fodder yield of 1489.70 kg ha⁻¹ in both the years was obtained *C. calothyrsus* followed by *L. leucocephala* with 1388.32 kg ha⁻¹ as compared to other fodder tree species. *A. lebbeck* significantly yielded the least total fodder yield (411.05 kg ha⁻¹).

The similar studies were conducted by Heineman et al. (1990) in western highlands of Kenya and reported the leafy biomass yields of hedges maintained at a height of 0.5 m were compared for L. leucocephala, C. calothyrsus and S. sesban. In the establishment year the fresh yields were 11.2, 17.2 and 20.3 t ha⁻¹ respectively. However, in the next 8 months C. calothyrsus had the highest yield (36.7 t ha-¹), followed by *L. leucocephala* (24.3 t ha^{-1}) and S. sesban had the lowest (10.8 t ha^{-1}). Niang et al. (1992) in Maseno reported two harvests per season (four per year) resulted in 59 per cent tree survival compared with 67 per cent at one harvest per season in S. Sesban. Paterson et al. (1998) in Zimbabwe reported that many farmers plant calliandra in pure stands and *calliandra* yields range from 2.5 to 5.6 t ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹ and A. angustissima, L. leucocephala and Gliricidia sepium produce more than 3 t ha-1 yr-1 when cut a single time at the end of the wet season. Hove et al. (2003) in the semi-arid areas around Segou, Mali reported that G. sepium yields 2 t ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹ and Pterocarpus spp. yields 0.5 t ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹. Wambugu et al. (2011) also reported that Calliandra yields 1.5 kg dry matter per tree per year on farms in central Kenya, grown in hedges pruned at 0.6 m to 1 m height, five times per year.

According to Orwa et al (2009) the leaves and pods of Calliandra calothursus are rich in protein and do not contain any toxic substances. Protein content is 22 per cent (dry matter) and annual fodder vield (dry matter) amounts to about 7-10 t ha-1. Spacing of $3 \ge 3$ m for fuelwood, and $5 \ge 5$ timber is followed. Fuelwood m for plantations spaced at 3 x 3 m clear felled on a 10-year rotation produce about 50 m³ ha-1 of stacked fuelwood. In Queensland A. lebbek reaches about 11 m in height and 50 cm dbh in 30 years. L. leucocephala is a vigorous coppicer and responds well to

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| | | | | | Green | fodder yield | 1 of trees (h | g ha ⁻¹) | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|-------------|------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------|--------|----------------|
| | | 8 | 18 | | | 8 | 19 | | | Poe | led | |
| Agroforestry system | I | п Brinnq | E Brinning | Total yield | I perming | n Brinng | E Braning | Total yield | I peraning | n Perming | E E E | Total yield |
| P C. caloftyrsus + FC | 463.05 | 565.54 | 434.30 | 1462.89 | 485.29 | 606.61 | 424.62 | 1516.52 | 474.17 | 586.07 | 429.46 | 1489.70 |
| E ₂ - A. lebbeck+FC | 122.41 | 147.58 | 124.95 | 394.95 | 136.69 | 170.86 | 119.60 | 427.14 | 129.55 | 159.22 | 122.28 | 411.05 |
| r ₈ - L. lewocephala + FC | 437.08 | 546.35 | 382.45 | 1365.88 | 451.44 | 564.30 | 395.01 | 1410.75 | 444.26 | 555.33 | 388.73 | 1388.32 |
| L4 - S. grandifiora + FC | 379.07 | 473.84 | 331.69 | 1184.60 | 391.73 | 489.67 | 342.77 | 1224.17 | 385.40 | 481.75 | 337.23 | 1204.39 |
| ls - G. sepium + FC | 359.94 | 441.48 | 303.88 | 1105.31 | 358.88 | 448.59 | 314.02 | 1121.49 | 359.41 | 445.04 | 308.95 | 1113.40 |
| I ₆ - M. oleifera+FC | 332.69 | 413.98 | 239.46 | 986.13 | 327.80 | 409.75 | 286.83 | 1024.39 | 330.25 | 411.87 | 263.14 | 1005.26 |
| ly- B. purpurea + FC | 163.29 | 186.48 | 139.41 | 489.17 | 160.46 | 200.57 | 140.40 | 501.43 | 161.87 | 193.52 | 139.91 | 495.30 |
| Менп | 282.19 | 346.91 | 244.52 | 873.62 | 289.04 | 361.29 | 252.91 | 903.24 | 285.61 | 354.10 | 248.71 | 888.43 |
| SEm ± | 23.84 | 29.56 | 25.28 | 73.76 | 13.23 | 16.54 | 11.58 | 41.35 | 16.66 | 20.66 | 15.78 | 51.22 |
| CD @ 5% | 73.02 | 90.53 | 77.41 | 225.89 | 40.53 | 50.66 | 35.46 | 126.64 | 51.03 | 63.27 | 48.32 | 156.85 |

pollarding and pruning. Coppiced stems sprout 5-15 branches, depending on the diameter of the cut surface, and 1-4 stems dominate after a year of regrowth. Wood yields from *L. leucocephala* over short (3-5 years) rotations compare favourably with other species, ranging from 3-4 m in height yr⁻¹ and 10-60 m³ ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹.

High plant densities are recommended for solid fodder. Fodder yields range from 40 to 80 t ha-1 when moisture is not limiting. In well-drained, deep loamy soils, plantations raised at 0.9 x 0.9 m can yield 4 t ha-1 yr-1. Studies on biomass production at different sites found that best production was at the riverside (65.1 kg tree⁻¹ at 3.5 years of age); under silvopasture, it was 20.5 kg/tree, and by canals 10.2 kg tree-1. The height growth is extremely fast in the first year; it slows down considerably in the subsequent 1-2 years, but the diameter growth rate does not slow down. Pruning at 0.3-1.5 m will stimulate leaf production. Pollarding at 2 m or above is recommended for optimal wood biomass production. Coppicing is used where the primary objective is fuelwood production. G. sepium (Orwa et al. 2009) and Grewia optiva (Singh et al. 2018) has shown to tolerate lopping and browsing.

CONCLUSIONS

The study revealed that Moringa oleifera ((2.31 and 2.12 cm)) and Leucaena leucocephala (2.21 and 1.98 cm) have attained more growth in diameter at breast height in terms of CAI. Higher current annual increment of tree canopy cover was noticed in Moringa olifera (1.89 m^2) , Gliricidia sepium (1.69 m²) and Calliandra calothyrsus (1.62 m²). Moringa olifera has and Leucaena leucocephala have attained maximum current annual increment (5.042 and 5.625 m³ ha⁻¹) and (4.414 and 4.880 m³ ha-1) in volume of wood during 2018 and 2019 respectively. Gliricidia sepium and Moringa olifera fetched higher values of current annual increment (4.18 and 4.90 t ha-1) and (3.81 and 4.25 t ha-1) in total tree biomass respectively.

The maximum green fodder yield (474.17, 586.07 and 429.46 kg ha⁻¹) was produced in Calliandra calothyrsus and Leucaena leucocephala (444.26, 555.33 and 388.73 kg ha-1) at 4, 8 and 12 months of pruning intervals. Total fodder yield for the vear 2018 and 2019 was produced maximum Calliandra calothyrsus in (1462.89 and 1516.52 kg ha-1) respectively. The highest pooled total fodder yield of 1489.70 and 1388.32 kg ha-1 in both the obtained by Calliandra vears was calothyrsus and Leucaena leucocephala. Albizia lebbeck significantly However, vielded the least total fodder vield (411.05 kg ha⁻¹). The present study concluded that the leguminous fodder tree species such as Sesbania grandiflora, Leuceana leucocephala, Calliandra calothyrsus, Moringa olifera, Bauhinia purpurea and Albizia lebbeck examined in the present investigation can be used for the production of fodder and thus offer a means of linking livestock production with agroforestry.

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