# Forage Resource Management for Sustainable Rearing of Mithun in the North-East Hill Region






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# Foreword

Agriculture contributes to the GDP to an extent of 25 per cent of which one fourth is through livestock products. Hence Livestock is very important components of Indian economy. Animals are an important source of food, particularly high quality protein, minerals, vitamins and micronutrients. There is growing demand for food of animal origin especially in North Eastern region as most of the people of North Eastern region are non- vegetarian. But their supply is limited because of high input cost particularly feed and fodder cost that accounts for about 60-65 percent of the total production cost.

The Mithun is a ruminant animal and found at an altitude between 600 to 3000 msl in North Eastern hill Region. The species is semi-domesticated in the sense that it generally prefers to live in forests except for a certain period it is kept confined to supply salt at regular interval. Although Mithun prefer to graze or browse on shrubs and small trees but there is very meager information about the nutritional quality of these forages generally relished by the animals. Therefore, there is a much felt need for a book about the forage resources of North East hill Region where Mithun population predominates.

The chapters in this bulletin are systematically arranged. The first three chapters are devoted to general introduction, Mithun population with agro-ecosystem to acquaint the reader with Mithun and about the climate of Mithun inhabited areas.

Because of importance, locally available non-conventional forage resources, their nutrient composition, mineral profile and in sacco degradability of certain important forage species are discussed extensively. The composition of locally available feed ingredients is also documented and for year round availability of green fodder under the agro-climatic condition of North East region, an intensive fodder production system has been suggested. All these chapters make the bulletin more useful not only for North Eastern region but also for the people of whole India.

I hope Scientists, students and farmers will find this bulletin very useful and it is so, the efforts of the authors will be fruitful.

I wish them success.

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