Camello (Brachiaria Hybrid)

1. Ecology

Agro-ecological zones
Mainly lowlands, zones IV & V.

Soil requirement / types
Requires medium to high fertile soils with pH 4.5-8

Moisture
Require rainfall of 300-450 mm per annum.

Temperature range
Highly drought tolerant. Require average temperature of 25 degrees Celsius.

2. Agronomy

Land preparation
Plough with disc and hurrow to fine tilth. For minimum tillage use a chisel/subsoiler.

Sowing
Sowing rate of 8-10kg/ha. Create furrows 1-2 cm deep, drill the seeds and cover with light soil.
Spacing 50cm between rows and 30 cm within rows.

Fertilizer rate
Establishment fertilizer is necessary on infertile soils, for planting using 20-40kg/ha P, Top dressing 100Kg N/Ha.

Weeding
Physical or use of selective herbicides - 150ml/20 litres water.

Pest & Disease challenge
No major diseases or pests.

Harvesting & storage
Ready for harvest 80-100 days after planting
Harvesting can be done by hand or with a mechanical harvester.
Cutting height of 5cm above ground recommended.
Conserved through drying/bailing or ensiling.

3. Nutritive value

Nutritive composition

Crude protein ranges between 14-16%

Crude fibre -34%

Neutral detergent fibre (NDF)-69%

Acid detergent fibre (ADF)- 35%

Digestibility –very high 62%

Metabolizable energy (ME)-7.3 MJ/kg DM

Palatability

Highly palatable.

Formulation with other forages

Combine at a ratio of 3 grass parts : 1 legume

4. Yield

Dry matter

Yields between 27-30t/ha/yr

5. Advantages

- Highly digestible.
- Highly drought tolerant.

6. Disdvantages

- Poor tolerance to waterlogging.

About the implementing project

The Integrated & Climate Smart Innovations for Agro-Pastoralist Economies and Landscapes in Kenya's Arid and Semi-arid Lands (ICSIAPL) is a three-year (2021 – 2023) project funded by the European Union (EU) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (DGIS).

The project is implemented by SNV Netherlands Development Organisation, SNV, (lead partner) and the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization, KALRO (research partner).

The objective of the project is to enhance the livelihoods of agro-pastoralist communities through improved forage production and sustainable landscape management. It wil also upscale commercialisation of climate smart innovations while creating an enabling policy environment for the livestock sector.

SNV is a not-for-profit international development organisation that makes a lasting difference in the lives of people living in poverty by helping them raise incomes and access basic services.

KALRO is the National agricultural and livestock research organization in Kenya mandated to coordinate agricultural research in technology.

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