



Dolichos lablab (*Lablab purpureus*)

1. Ecology

Agro-ecological zones

Mainly lowlands, zones IV & V.

Soil requirement / types

Adapted to a wide range of soils from sandy to heavy well drained clays with a pH of 5-7.5.

Moisture

Best suited in regions with 600-2500mm rainfall per annum.

Temperature

Tolerant to frost and low temperatures. Optimum temperature of 18-35 degrees.

2. Agronomy

Land preparation

Plough with disc and hurrow to fine tilt for minimum tillage use a chisel/subsoiler.

Sowing

Sowing rate as single species of 12-20 kg/ha and 5-8kg/ha in a mixture of species.

Drill the seeds at 3-10 cm deep and cover. The seeds can also be broadcasted.

Spacing of 80-120cm between rows and intra-row spacing of 40cm.

Fertilizer

Establishment fertilizer commonly not applied.

Weeding

Manually or use of selective herbicides against the narrow leaved (grasses)

Pest challenge

Roots can be attacked by nematodes and seeds by pod feeding and boring insects.

Disease challenge

Low susceptibility to root disease than cowpea. Disease problems are rare.

Harvesting & Storage

Cutting stage at 40-50% flowering. Dried, baled and stored as hay/ silage in a sheltered, well aerated feed store.

3. Feeding value

Nutritive value

Crude protein: 14 – 21%.

Crude fibre: 24.1%

Neutral detergent fibre (NDF): 38.6%

Acid detergent fibre (ADF): 27.1%

Organic matter digestibility: 71.2%

Metabolizable energy (ME): 9.8 MJ/kg DM

Palatability

High palatability in leaf. Low palatability in stem.

Formulation with other forages

Combine at a ratio of 1 legume:3 grass parts.

4. Yield

Dry matter

2 – 4 t/ha per annum

5. Advantages

- High yielding forage legume.
- Drought tolerant once established.
- Non-bloating.
- Can be grazed, harvested for hay or used as green manure.

6. Disdvantages

- Short lived.
- Poor frost tolerance.
- Intolerance of prolonged water logging.

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.

For more information, please contact ICSIAPL project teams:

**SNV Kenya, Ngong Lane, Off Ngong Road, Tel: +254 724 463 355. Email: kenya@snv.org
or
KALRO, Kaptagat Road, Loresho, Tel: +254 722 206 986; Email: info@kalro.org**



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