

Forage Legumes in Dryland Agriculture in Central and West Asia and North Africa. (Z03-elmoneim034231-Oral)

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Abstract:

The Central and West Asia and North Africa regions are experiencing increased pressure on their agricultural resources base due to a rapidly growing livestock and human population. Severe feed deficit also triggered the replacement of fallow-barely rotation with continuous use in the dry lands and increased cropping on marginal lands with consequent degradation. Forage legumes may augment feed supply. Thus under rain fed conditions, considerable variation was observed in herbage and grain yields of improved vetches and chick lings within both lines in different environments. Rainfall dictates the relative importance of these species. In marginal non-arable lands, underground vetch was the most suitable. The introduction of feed legumes would reduce pest and disease risk and increase sustainable productivity.

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