

## (v) DEENANATH GRASS (*Pennisetum pedicellatum*)

### A. CROP MANAGEMENT

#### 1. SOIL

All types of soil with good drainage. Does not come up well on heavy clay soil or flooded or waterlogged conditions.

#### 2. PREPARATORY CULTIVATION

Plough 2-3 times to obtain good tilth and form beds and channels.

#### 3. MANURING

Basal: FYM 25 t/ha NPK 20 : 25 : 20 kg/ha

Top dressing: 20 Kg N on 30th day after sowing 50% of this has to be applied for rainfed crop.

#### 4. SEED RATE

2.5 kg/ha

#### 5. SPACING

35 x 10 cm or solid sowing in lines 30 cm apart.

#### 6. AFTER CULTIVATION

Hoeing and weeding on 30th day after sowing.

#### 7. IRRIGATION

Once in ten days depending on soil condition.

#### 8. PLANT PROTECTION

Generally not recommended

#### 9. HARVEST

55-60th day after sowing.

#### 10. GREEN FODDER YIELD

Irrigated crop : 25-30 t/ha first crop. Ratoon crop : 15-20 t/ha

Rainfed crop : 15-20 t/ha

## B. SEED PRODUCTION

### Land requirement

- Land should be free of volunteer plants. The previous crop should not be the same variety or other varieties of the same crop. It can be the same variety if it is certified as per the procedures of certification agency.

### Isolation

- For certified quality seed production, leave a distance of 10 m all around the field from the same and other varieties of the crop.

### Pre-sowing seed management

- Scarify the seeds in a defluffer followed by soaking in GA<sub>3</sub> (200 ppm) + KNO<sub>3</sub> (0.25 %) solution for 16 hours.
- Pellet the seed with DAP @ 60 g / kg and *arappu* leaf (*Albizzia amara*) powder @ 500 g / kg of seed to enable easy handling of seed during sowing and also for better establishment.

### Harvest

- Harvest the crop when the panicle dried completely.
- Delayed harvesting resulted in shattering loss.

### Pre- storage seed treatment

- Treat the seeds with Carbendazim @ 4 g / kg of seed.

### Storage

- Store the seeds in gunny or cloth bags for short term storage (8 - 9 months) with a seed moisture content of 9 - 10 %.
- Store the seeds in polylined gunny bag for medium term storage (12 - 15 months) with a seed moisture content of 8 - 9 %.
- Store the seeds in 700 gauge polythene bag for long term storage (more than 15 months) with a seed moisture content less than 8 %.