THE INFLUENCE OF FORAGE LEGUMES ON ANNUAL FODDER GRASSES
IN DIFFERENT INTERCROPPING SYSTEMS IN THE LIMPOPO PROVINCE

A DISSERTATION
SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENTAL
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BY

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

DESERATION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

DEDICATION

LIST OF FIGURES

LIST OF TABLES

THESIS ABSTRACT

CHAPTER 1

1 INTRODUCTION AND LITERATURE REVIEW

1.1 ANIMAL PRODUCTION IN THE LIMPOPO PROVINCE

1.2 THE POSSIBLE ROLE OF PLANTED PASTURES IN THE PROVINCE

1.2.1 Motivation for the use of legumes

1.2.2 Motivation for the choice of species

1.2.3 INTERCROPPING

1.2.3.1 THE ADVANTAGES OF INTERCROPPING

1.2.3.2 OVERYIELDING

1.2.4 THE PRODUCTION OF FODDER GRASS/LEGUME MIXTURES

1.3 Hypothesis of the study

1.6 The objective of the study

CHAPTER 2

2 MATERIAL AND METHODS
2.1 EXPERIMENTAL SITE
2.1.1 The UNIN Experimental farm 22-24
2.1.2 The PTK Experimental farm 24-26
2.1.3 The Dan district 26-28

2.2 TREATMENTS 28-29

2.3 PREPARATION AND LAYOUT OF EXPERIMENTAL PLOTS 29

2.4 ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CROPPING SYSTEMS 29-30

2.5 DATA COLLECTION 30-33

2.6 DATA ANALYSIS 33

CHAPTER 3

3 RESULTS ON THE UNIVERSITY OF THE NORTH EXPERIMENTAL FARM 34

3.1 TOTAL DM PRODUCTION (t ha\(^{-1}\)) OF DIFFERENT COMPONENTS 34

3.1.1 DM production of the grass/legume mixtures 34-35

3.2 THE EFFECT OF CUTTING TREATMENTS AND CROPPING SYSTEMS ON DM PRODUCTION (t ha\(^{-1}\)) OF THE GRASS/LEGUME MIXTURES 35

3.3 GRASS/LEGUME RATIOS 35-36

3.4 PROTEIN CONTENT AND PRODUCTION OF DIFFERENT COMPONENTS 36

3.4.1 Protein content of the grass component 36-37

3.4.2 Protein content of the leguminous component 37

3.4.3 Total protein production (kg ha\(^{-1}\)) of grass/legume mixtures 37-38

3.5 FIBRE CONTENT (%) OF THE DIFFERENT COMPONENTS 38

3.5.1 Fibre content of the grass component 38-39

3.6 PHOSPHORUS CONTENT AND PRODUCTION OF DIFFERENT COMPONENTS 39

3.6.1 Phosphorus content of the grass component 39

3.6.2 Phosphorus content of the leguminous component 40

3.6.3 Total phosphorus production (kg ha\(^{-1}\)) of the grass/legume mixtures 40-41

3.7 CALCIUM CONTENT AND PRODUCTION OF THE DIFFERENT COMPONENTS 41

3.7.1 Calcium content of the grass component 41-42

3.7.2 Calcium content of the leguminous component 42

3.7.3 Total calcium production (kg ha\(^{-1}\)) of the grass/legume mixtures 42-43
3.8 FAT CONTENT (%) OF THE DIFFERENT COMPONENTS 43
  3.8.1 Fat content of the grass component 43

3.9 ASH CONTENT (%) OF THE DIFFERENT COMPONENTS 44
  3.9.1 Ash content of the grass component 44

3.10 DISCUSSION OF THE RESULTS AT THE UNIN EXPERIMENTAL FARM 44
  3.10.1 DM production (t ha\(^{-1}\)) of the grass/legume mixtures 44
  3.10.2 Cutting treatments and total DM production (t ha\(^{-1}\)) of grass/legume mixtures 45
  3.10.3 Grass/legume ratios (%) 45
  3.10.4 The protein content (%) of the grass component 45-46
  3.10.5 The protein content (%) of the leguminous component 46
  3.10.6 The protein production (kg ha\(^{-1}\)) of grass/legume mixtures 46
  3.10.7 Fibre content (%) of the grass component 46
  3.10.8 Phosphorus content (%) of the grass component 46
  3.10.9 Phosphorus content (%) of the leguminous component 47
  3.10.10 Phosphorus production (kg ha\(^{-1}\)) of the grass/legume mixtures 47
  3.10.11 Calcium content (%) of the grass component 47
  3.10.12 Calcium content (%) of the leguminous component 48
  3.10.13 Calcium production (kg ha\(^{-1}\)) of the grass/legume mixtures 48
  3.10.14 Fat content (%) of the grass component 48
  3.10.15 Ash content (%) of the grass component 48-49

CHAPTER 4

4 RESULTS ON THE PTK EXPERIMENTAL FARM, MOKOPANE 50

4.1 TOTAL DM PRODUCTION (t ha\(^{-1}\)) OF DIFFERENT COMPONENTS 50
  4.1.1 DM production of the grass/legume mixtures 50-51

4.2 THE EFFECT OF CUTTING TREATMENTS AND CROPPING SYSTEMS ON DM PRODUCTION (t ha\(^{-1}\)) OF THE GRASS/LEGUME MIXTURES 51

4.3 GRASS/LEGUME RATIOS 51-52

4.4 PROTEIN CONTENT AND PRODUCTION OF DIFFERENT COMPONENTS 52
  4.4.1 Protein content of the grass component 52-53
  4.4.2 Protein content of the leguminous component 53
  4.4.3 Total protein production (kg ha\(^{-1}\)) of grass/legume mixtures 53-54
4.5 FIBRE CONTENT (%) OF THE DIFFERENT COMPONENTS  54
   4.5.1 Fibre content of the grass component  54-55

4.6 PHOSPHORUS CONTENT AND PRODUCTION OF DIFFERENT COMPONENTS  55
   4.6.1 Phosphorus content of the grass component  55
   4.6.2 Phosphorus content of the leguminous component  55-56
   4.6.3 Total phosphorus production (kg ha\(^{-1}\)) of the grass/legume mixtures  56

4.7 CALCIUM CONTENT AND PRODUCTION OF THE DIFFERENT COMPONENTS  57
   4.7.1 Calcium content of the grass component  57
   4.7.2 Calcium content of the leguminous component  57
   4.7.3 Total calcium production (kg ha\(^{-1}\)) of the grass/legume mixtures  58

4.8 FAT CONTENT (%) OF THE DIFFERENT COMPONENTS  58
   4.8.1 Fat content of the grass component  58-59

4.9 ASH CONTENT (%) OF THE DIFFERENT COMPONENTS  59
   4.9.1 Ash content of the grass component  59

4.10. DISCUSSION OF THE RESULTS AT MOKOPANE AT THE PTK EXPERIMENTAL FARM  60
   4.10.1 DM production (t ha\(^{-1}\)) of the grass/legume mixtures  60
   4.10.2 Cutting treatments and total DM production (t ha\(^{-1}\)) of grass/legume mixtures  60
   4.10.3 Grass/legume ratios (%)  60-61
   4.10.4 The protein content (%) of the grass component  61
   4.10.5 The protein content (%) of the leguminous component  61
   4.10.6 The protein production (kg ha\(^{-1}\)) of grass/legume mixtures  61
   4.10.7 Fibre content (%) of the grass component  62
   4.10.8 Phosphorus content (%) of the grass component  62
   4.10.9 Phosphorus content (%) of the leguminous component  62
   4.10.10 Phosphorus production (kg ha\(^{-1}\)) of the grass/legume mixtures  62-63
   4.10.11 Calcium content (%) of the grass component  63
   4.10.12 Calcium content (%) of the leguminous component  63
   4.10.13 Calcium production (kg ha\(^{-1}\)) of the grass/legume mixtures  63
   4.10.14 Fat content (%) of the grass component  64
   4.10.15 Ash content (%) of the grass component  64

CHAPTER 5

5 RESULTS ON DAN DISTRICT IN THE COMMUNAL FIELDS  65

5.1 TOTAL DM PRODUCTION (t ha\(^{-1}\)) OF DIFFERENET COMPONENTS  65
   5.1.1 DM production of the grass/legume mixtures  65-66
5.2 THE EFFECT OF CUTTING TREATMENTS AND CROPPING SYSTEMS ON DM PRODUCTION (t ha\(^{-1}\)) OF THE GRASS/LEGUME MIXTURES

5.3 GRASS/LEGUME RATIOS

5.4 PROTEIN CONTENT AND PRODUCTION OF DIFFERENT COMPONENT

5.4.1 Protein content of the grass component
5.4.2 Protein content of the leguminous component
5.4.3 Total protein production (kg ha\(^{-1}\)) of the grass/legume mixtures in an early stage

5.5 FIBRE CONTENT (%) OF THE DIFFERENT COMPONENTS

5.5.1 Fibre content of the grass component

5.6 PHOSPHORUS CONTENT AND PRODUCTION OF DIFFERENT COMPONENTS

5.6.1 Phosphorus content of the grass component
5.6.2 Phosphorus content of the leguminous component
5.6.3 Total phosphorus production (kg ha\(^{-1}\)) of the grass/legume mixtures

5.7 CALCIUM CONTENT AND PRODUCTION OF THE DIFFERENT COMPONENTS

5.7.1 Calcium content of the grass component
5.7.2 Calcium content of the leguminous component
5.7.3 Total calcium production (kg ha\(^{-1}\)) of the grass/legume mixtures

5.8 FAT CONTENT (%) OF THE DIFFERENT COMPONENTS

5.8.1 Fat content of the grass component

5.9 ASH CONTENT (%) OF THE DIFFERENT COMPONENTS

5.9.1 Ash content of the grass component

5.10. DISCUSSION OF THE RESULTS AT THE DAN DISTRICT ON THE COMMUNAL FIELDS

5.10.1 DM production (t ha\(^{-1}\)) of the grass/legume mixtures
5.10.2 Cutting treatments and total DM production (t ha\(^{-1}\)) of grass/legume mixtures
5.10.3 Grass/legume ratios (%)
5.10.4 The protein content (%) of the grass component
5.10.5 The protein content (%) of the leguminous component
5.10.6 The protein production (kg ha\(^{-1}\)) of grass/legume mixtures
5.10.7 Fibre content (%) of the grass component
5.10.8 Phosphorus content (%) of the grass component
5.10.9 Phosphorus content (%) of the leguminous component
5.10.10 Phosphorus production (kg ha\(^{-1}\)) of the grass/legume mixtures
5.10.11 Calcium content (%) of the grass component
5.10.12 Calcium content (%) of the leguminous component
5.10.13 Calcium production (kg ha\(^{-1}\)) of the grass/legume mixtures
5.10.14 Fat content (%) of the grass component
5.10.15 Ash content (%) of the grass component

CHAPTER 6

6 CONCLUSION 80-81

7 REFERENCES 82-87

8 TABLES OF RESULTS 88-113
DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the work herein submitted as dissertation for the degree Master of Agricultural Management. I assert that this is the result of my own investigation, and that it has neither wholly nor partially been presented as dissertation for the degree in this University or elsewhere. Work by other authors, which served as sources of information, has duly been acknowledged by way of in-text referencing and bibliography.

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LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURES

1. The map showing the area where the study was conducted at the University of the North Experimental farm. 24
2. The map showing the area where the study was conducted at the PTK Experimental farm. 26
3. The map showing the area where the study was conducted at the Dan district on the communal fields. 28

LIST OF TABLES

TABLES

3.1.1 The effect of cropping systems on DM production (t ha\(^{-1}\)) of sole grass and grass/legume mixtures at the UNIN experimental farm. 89
3.1.2 The effect of cutting treatments and cropping systems on DM production (t ha\(^{-1}\)) of sole grass and grass/legume mixtures at the UNIN experimental farm. 89
3.1.3 The grass/legume ratio of the mixtures at different cutting stage at the UNIN experimental farm. 90
3.2.1 The effect of cropping systems on protein content (%) of the grass component at the UNIN experimental farm. 90
3.2.2 The effect of cropping systems on protein content (%) of the leguminous component at the UNIN experimental farm. 91
3.2.3 The effect of cropping systems on protein production (kg ha\(^{-1}\)) of sole grass and grass/legume mixtures at the UNIN experimental farm. 91
3.3.1 The effect of cropping systems on fibre content (%) of the grass component at the UNIN experimental farm. 92
3.4.1 The effect of cropping systems on phosphorus content (%) of the grass component at the UNIN experimental farm. 92
3.4.2 The effect of cropping systems on phosphorus content (%) of the leguminous component at the UNIN experimental.

3.4.3 The effect of cropping systems on phosphorus production (kg ha\(^{-1}\)) sole grass and grass/legume mixtures at the UNIN experimental farm.

3.5.1 The effect of cropping systems on calcium content (%) of the grass component at the UNIN experimental farm.

3.5.2 The effect of cropping systems on calcium content (%) of the leguminous component at the UNIN experimental farm.

3.5.3 The effect of cropping systems on calcium production (kg ha\(^{-1}\)) of sole grass and grass/legume mixtures at the UNIN experimental farm.

3.6.1 The effect of cropping systems on fibre content (%) of the grass component at the UNIN experimental farm.

3.7.1 The effect of cropping systems on ash content (%) of the grass component at the UNIN experimental farm.

4.1.1 The effect of cropping systems on DM production (t ha\(^{-1}\)) of sole grass and grass/legume mixtures at the PTK experimental farm, Mokopane.

4.1.2 The effect of cutting treatments and cropping systems on DM production (t ha\(^{-1}\)) of sole grass and grass/legume mixtures at the PTK experimental, Mokopane.

4.1.3 The grass/legume ratio of the mixtures at different cutting stage at the PTK experimental farm, Mokopane.

4.2.1 The effect of cropping systems on protein content (%) of the grass component at the PTK experimental farm, Mokopane.

4.2.2 The effect of cropping systems on protein content (%) of the legume component at the PTK experimental farm, Mokopane.

4.2.3 The effect of cropping systems on protein production (kg ha\(^{-1}\)) of sole grass and grass/legume mixtures at the PTK experimental farm, Mokopane.

4.3.1 The effect of cropping systems on fibre content (%) of the grass component at the PTK experimental farm, Mokopane.

4.4.1 The effect of cropping systems on phosphorus content (%) of the grass component at the PTK experimental farm, Mokopane.
4.4.2 The effect of cropping systems on phosphorus content (%) of the leguminous component at the PTK experimental farm, Mokopane.

4.4.3 The effect of cropping systems on phosphorus production (kg ha$^{-1}$) sole grass and grass/legume mixtures at the PTK experimental farm, Mokopane.

4.5.1 The effect of cropping systems on calcium content (%) of the grass component at the PTK experimental farm, Mokopane.

4.5.2 The effect of cropping systems on calcium content (%) of the leguminous component at the PTK experimental farm, Mokopane.

4.5.3 The effect of cropping systems on calcium production (kg ha$^{-1}$) of sole grass and grass/legume mixtures at the PTK experimental farm, Mokopane.

4.6.1 The effect of cropping systems on fibre content (%) of the grass component at the PTK experimental farm, Mokopane.

4.7.1 The effect of cropping systems on ash content (%) of the grass component at the PTK experimental farm, Mokopane.

5.1.1 The effect of cropping systems on DM production (t ha$^{-1}$) of sole grass and grass/legume mixtures at the Dan district.

5.1.2 The effect of cutting treatments and cropping systems on DM production (t ha$^{-1}$) of sole grass and grass/legume mixtures at a later cutting stage at the Dan district.

5.1.3 The grass/legume ratio of the mixtures at different cutting stage at the Dan district.

5.2.1 The effect of cropping systems on protein content (%) of the grass component at the Dan district.

5.2.2 The effect of cropping systems on protein content (%) of the leguminous component at the Dan district.

5.2.3 The effect of cropping systems on protein production (kg ha$^{-1}$) of sole grass and grass/legume mixtures at the Dan district.

5.3.1 The effect of cropping systems on fibre content (%) of the grass component at the Dan district.

5.4.1 The effect of cropping systems on phosphorus content (%) of the grass component at the Dan district.
5.4.2 The effect of cropping systems on phosphorus content (%) of the leguminous component at the Dan district.

5.4.3 The effect of cropping systems on phosphorus production (kg ha\(^{-1}\)) sole grass and grass/legume mixtures at the Dan district.

5.5.1 The effect of cropping systems on calcium content (%) of the grass component at the Dan district.

5.5.2 The effect of cropping systems on calcium content (%) of the leguminous component at the Dan district.

5.5.3 The effect of cropping systems on calcium production (kg ha\(^{-1}\)) of sole grass and grass/legume mixtures at the Dan district.

5.6.1 The effect of cropping systems on fibre content (%) of the grass component at the Dan district.

5.7.1 The effect of cropping systems on ash content (%) of the grass component at the Dan district.

6.1.1 Feeding potential of grass/legume mixtures in terms of phosphorus production (kg ha\(^{-1}\))

6.1.2 Feeding potential of grass/legume mixtures in terms of calcium production (kg ha\(^{-1}\))
Identification of annual grass/legume intercropping or mixtures with superior nutrient traits and Dry matter (DM) production is critical to increasing productivity of the crop and animal production among small-scale farmers in the Limpopo Province. Three similar field experiments were established at different locations in the Province to determine the significance of the contribution of annual summer legumes, and cutting treatments on the nutritive value and dry matter accumulation of the popular forage sorghum (Sorghum spp) and pearl millet (Pennisetum glaucum) intercropped with cowpea (Vigna unguiculata) and dolichos (Lablab purpureus). The cropping systems evaluated were sole sorghum, sole pearl millet, sorghum + cowpea, sorghum + dolichos, pearl millet + cowpea and pearl millet + dolichos. The treatments sole sorghum and pearl millet significantly ($P<0.05$) outperformed the other treatments in terms of DM production at most cutting stages. The remaining four treatments though, inferior in DM in this study, yielded better than the average yield on farmers' fields in the Province. Higher protein content was obtained in mixtures than in sole cropping, and generally there was lower protein production and content at matured stages (CT3) in the study. The other chemical composition analyzed in the study was not significant for both mixtures and sole cultures.

**Keywords:** Annual grasses, annual legumes, cropping systems, dry matter intercropping and protein,