



## Evaluation of shade tolerant fodder crops in *Melia dubia* based silvipastoral system

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Received: 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2021

Accepted: 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2022

### Abstract

A field experiment was conducted at Forest College and Research Station, Mettupalayam during 2017-2019 to evaluate a suitable shade tolerant fodder grass and legume combination in the existing plantation of *Melia dubia*. The fodder crops viz., CO(BN)5 grass, guinea grass CO(GG)3, lucerne (*Medicago sativa*), hedge lucerne (*Desmanthus virgatus*) and *Stylosanthes* were planted and sown in two years old *Melia* plantation both as sole crop and in combination. The trials were laid out in randomized block design and replicated thrice. Results of this experiment revealed that CO (BN)5 grass along with hedge lucerne was found to be efficient shade tolerant fodder crops under *Melia* plantation. The fodder crops grown as intercrops contributed beneficial impact on the growth of tree crop.

**Keywords:** Fodder crops, *Melia*, Shade tolerant, Silvipasture, Soil fertility