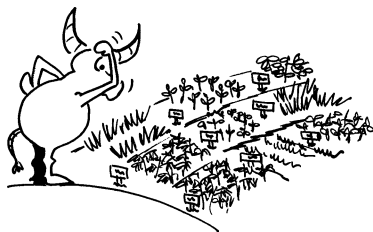


An aerial photograph of a lush green landscape featuring terraced hills. A winding road or path is visible, curving through the terraces. The overall scene is vibrant and natural.

What are forages?

2

# What are forages?



*Brachiaria humidicola* 'Yanero'. [WS]



*Paspalum atratum*  
'Terenos'. [WS]

Forages are grasses and legumes that can be used for feeding animals and for better management of the environment. There are many species of grasses and legumes and each of these species can have one or more varieties. Another booklet in this series 'Developing forage technologies with smallholder farmers - how to select the best varieties to offer farmers in Southeast Asia' provides more details on how to select the varieties that are best adapted to the soil, climate and the needs of the farmer.

Take Note



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***It is important to offer farmers a 'basket of choices' (several forage varieties), not only one variety.***

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Grasses and legumes come in many different forms:

## Grasses

- Short, spreading grasses with horizontal stems (stolons and rhizomes) which grow roots and can form new plants (e.g. *Brachiaria humidicola*).
- Tussock grasses which form distinct clumps (e.g. *Paspalum atratum*).

## Legumes

- Short, spreading legumes with horizontal stems (stolons and rhizomes) which grow roots and can form new plants (e.g. *Arachis pintoï*).
- Twining legumes (e.g. *Centrosema macrocarpum*).
- Erect bushy legumes (e.g. *Stylosanthes guianensis*).
- Shrub legumes (e.g. *Desmodium cinerea*).
- Tree legumes (e.g. *Calliandra calothyrsus*).



*Arachis pintoï* 'Itacambira'. [JH]



*Centrosema macrocarpum* 'Ucayali'. [JH]



*Stylosanthes guianensis* 'Stylo 184'. [WS]



*Desmodium cinerea* 'Las Delicias'. [WS]



*Calliandra calothyrsus* 'Besakih'. [WS]