

SOURCE:

- ITCPH, FEEDNOVATION MODULE
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# FODDER PRODUCTION USING HYDROPONICS



## HYDROPONIC FODDER PRODUCTION

Growing of fodder without soil but in water for a maximum of 6 days. The water must be safe for human drinking. You can sprout seeds of barley, maize, oats, wheat or sorghum to obtain fodder for cattle, pigs or poultry.

### ADVANTAGES:

- Fodder is young tender grass. In essence, it replaces grains like dairy meal, pig's feeds and poultry feed concentrates. Globally, hydroponic fodder is considered to be the best livestock feed.
- It takes between 800ml to 1.5 liters of water (if water is drained) to 3 liters (if water is not recycled) to produce one kilogram of fodder as compared with 30-90 liters of water to grow a kilogram of fresh fodder using soil.
- Marginal land use
- Minimal incidences of pests and diseases, as well as reduced use of pesticides.
- Cost effective
- Nutritious feed, which produces maximum protein, and is very rich in vitamins such as B-carotene, trace elements, hormones, growth factors and enzymes
- Enhances the digestive system of livestock to process the fodder more efficiently and improve on mineral absorption from the fodder

## STEPS TO PRODUCE FODDER

1

Select seeds without overgrowths and free of chemicals

2

Wash the seeds. Soak in water for 8-12 hours.

3

Rinse and drain the seeds. Spread the seeds in a plastic tray (no holes) and inoculate for 24-48 hours. Cover the tray with cloth or plastic.

4

Transfer and spread the seeds in plastic trays (with holes). Water the seeds at least three times a day. Be sure to water the entire tray and all seeds are in wet.

5

Harvest the fodder in 7-10 days and feed the whole plant to livestock