

AVAILABILITY OF GRASS FORAGES IN AKINYELE INTERNATIONAL CATTLE MARKET, IBADAN

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ABSTRACT

*The study was carried out at Akinyele international Cattle Market, Ibadan. A period of 15 days was used to monitor the inflow of grass brought to feed cattle by direct observation using checklist. Relevant information on source of grass, types of grass and quantity supplied were gathered. The study revealed that grass was brought from 30 different locations within Oyo state. The location with highest contribution of grass forages supplied was Fiditi (103 ± 68.71) while the lowest is from Sogunro (11.00 ± 0.00) and Oloosa-oko (11.00 ± 0.00) respectively. Five different grass species were brought to feed cattle at the study area with the highest being *Pennisetum purpureum* (59%) and the least *Pennisetum pedicellatum* (10%). The largest quantity of grass was brought on Fridays while the smallest was on Tuesdays. The study revealed that there is consistent inflow of different species of grass to the study area from various locations.*

INTRODUCTION

In Nigeria, the uneven distribution of rainfall poses serious forage management and animal feeding difficulties during the dry season. Thus, available forage materials can no longer provide the minimum protein and energy requirements to grazing animals (Obioha and Ndukwe, 1976). However, in the rainy season, there is an abundance of grazeable forages. Ruminants suffers a lot from the unavailability of quality feed during the dry season, as there is usually a total absence of succulent and high quality nutrition feed for grazing. Seasonal fluctuation in nutritive values of forages are the constraints to livestock production during the dry season (Abbator *et al.*, 2000).

Akinyele international cattle market presents an interesting situation as it is one of the largest cattle market in South-west Nigeria and at any point in time, up to a thousand cattle are available for sale. The cattle are fed maintenance ration to keep them healthy prior to when they are sold. This ration consists majorly of grass forage as it is the cheapest feed source available. However, due to the amount of cattle units present in the market, the availability of grass forages and the source of these grass forages that cattle traders in Akinyele International cattle market use to meet the maintenance ration requirement of their cattle prior to its sale needs to be assessed.

Therefore, the study was carried out to assess the inflow of grass forage fed to cattle at Akinyele International cattle market, Ibadan

Materials and methods

The study was carried out at Akinyele International cattle market, Ibadan for a period of fifteen days from 7am-7pm every day of the week. Direct observation with the aid of checklist and weighing balance was used to obtain relevant data on the source of grasses, type of grasses, quantity of grass offloaded daily. Data obtained were analysed using descriptive statistics with Excel 2016 and SPSS statistical package (version 21).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Presented in Figure 1 is the species of grass forage supplied to Akinyele International Cattle Market. It was observed that four different species of grass were constantly supplied which are *Pennisetum purpureum*, *Andropogon gayanus*, *Panicum maximum*, *Pennisetum pedicellatum*, at 59%, 18%, 13% and 10% respectively. The most frequently supplied species of grass is *Pennisetum purpureum* while the least is *Pennisetum pedicellatum*. The high supply of *Pennisetum purpureum* may be due to the fact that it is one of the highest yielding tropical grasses. It is a very versatile species that can be grown under a wide range of conditions and systems: dry or wet conditions. It is a valuable forage and very popular throughout the tropics, notably in cut-and-carry systems (Mannetje, 1992; FAO, 2015). While the least supplied grass forage found in Akinyele international cattle market was *Pennisetum pedicellatum*. The reduced quantity supplied might be that animals in the study area has less preference for the species of forage. It could also be that available *pennisetum pedicellatum* at that season of the year might be lignified with minimal quantity available for cut and carry. Babayemi *et al.*, (2005) reported that the dry season is characterized by insufficient feed.

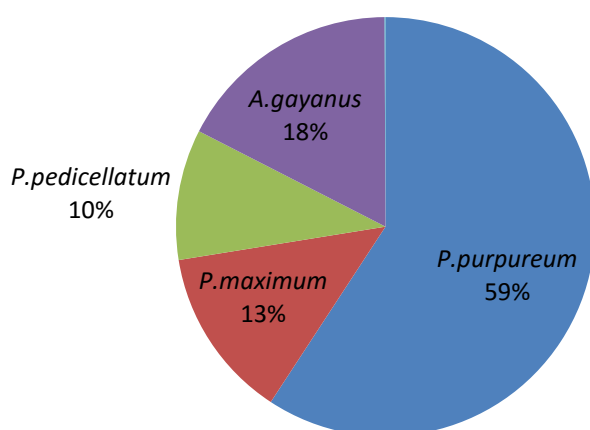


Figure 1: Species of Grass Forage Supplied to Akinyele International Cattle Market

Shown in Figure 1 is the average daily grass of forage supplied to Akinyele International cattle market. The study showed that, grasses are consistently supplied to the study area on a daily basis all through the period of the study. It was observed that the frequency of supply and quantity was highest on Fridays (16 tonnes) and the least on Tuesdays (2.7 tonnes). The quantity of grass inflow at the other days are Wednesday, Sunday, Monday, Saturday and Thursday follows at 15981kg, 12551kg, 9163kg, 3895.3kg, and 3816kg respectively. The highest frequency of supply and quantity on Fridays might be due to the fact that most farmers will want to purchase more grass on Friday as most sellers may not be around during the weekend while the least supply on Tuesday could be as a result of suppliers trying to decongest available grasses in relation to weekend preparation.

According to information gathered on the field, grass sellers source for grass at alternate days. They source today and rest tomorrow. They do this so that grass will not be in abundant

without them being able to sell off. Since the shelf life of cut and carry grass is small before chlorination and depreciation sets in. This is as justified from figure 2 below.

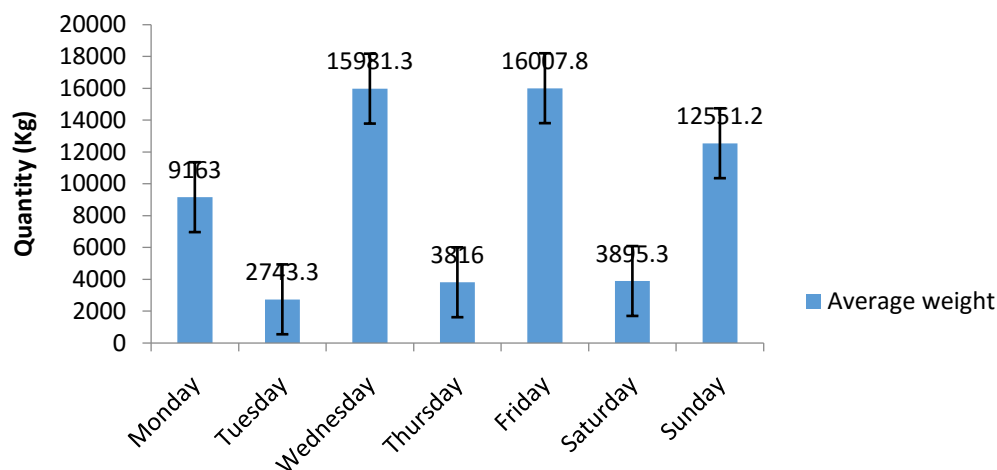


Figure 2: Average Daily Grass Forage Supplied to Akinyele International Cattle Market

Presented in Table 1 are the locations of grass forages supplied to Akinyele International cattle market Ibadan. It was observed that grass species were brought from 30 different locations within Oyo state. The location with the highest frequency of supply was Fiditi (103 ± 68.71) with the lowest from Sogunro (11.00 ± 0.00) and Oloosa-oko (11.00 ± 0.00) respectively. Fiditi had the highest population of all the grass species supplied (*Pennisetum purpureum* (698), *Panicum maximum* (142), *Pennisetum pedicellatum* (113)) except for *Andropogon gayanus* (215) which is highest in Ajibode. The highest frequency of grass supplied from Fiditi could be due to the fact that Fiditi is a location at the outskirts of Ibadan but relatively closer to the study area. It is an area with a land mass not occupied by buildings when compared with other source within Ibadan thus encouraging the growth of forages. Kallah (2014) reported that rain forest and mangrove swamp encourages very high yielding grass. Exploration of forages by individuals within Ibadan metropolis might be as a result of proximity.

Table 1: Locations of Grass Forages Supplied to Akinyele International Cattle Market

Source	Grass types				Mean ($\pm$ SD)
	<i>P.purpureum</i>	<i>P.maximum</i>	<i>P.pedicellatum</i>	<i>A.gayanus</i>	
Fiditi	698	142	113	77	103 ± 68.7
Oyo	297	37	13	0	43.4 ± 24.5
Moniya	359	133	71	45	55.3 ± 43.6
Tose	250	23	33	187	41.1 ± 35.7
Aba-odo	32	0	0	0	10.7 ± 2.9
Iroko	81	18	29	42	28.3 ± 13.8
Onikanyinkanyin	53	75	18	38	26.3 ± 20.2
Ajibode	44	19	21	215	29.9 ± 23.5
Odo-oba	33	15	14	35	24.3 ± 21.3

Akinyele	33	9	10	0	10.4 ± 7.3
Ijebu	0	17	0	0	8.5 ± 0.5
Ikereku	11	13	6	6	12.0 ± 4.6
Abrigiji	23	1	44	0	22.7 ± 8.5
Apapa	41	0	0	0	20.5 ± 2.5
Ojoo	66	0	0	5	35.5 ± 4.5
Jobele	65	9	0	0	24.7 ± 11.7
Alabata	61	6	7	41	38.3 ± 17.6
Akinmonrin road	40	0	0	0	40.0 ± 0.0
Matunde	2	7	22	0	15.5 ± 5.5
Oniyanrin	18	0	0	0	18.0 ± 0.0
Toll-gate	5	22	2	0	9.7 ± 2.9
Iware	62	0	18	17	50.0 ± 7.0
Sogunro	5	0	0	6	11.0 ± 0.0
Omilabu	20	0	0	0	20.0 ± 0.0
Alade	45	1	0	0	23.0 ± 12.0
Eluwaje	47	1	0	0	48.0 ± 0.0
Arulogun	38	0	3	20	30.5 ± 13.5
Ologbogbo	17	2	0	0	19.0 ± 0.0
Alausa	49	0	1	0	50.0 ± 0.0
Oloosa-oko	3	8	0	0	11.0 ± 0.0

Source: Field survey

SD: Standard deviation

CONCLUSION

The study showed that grasses are always supplied daily to Akinyele International Cattle Market Ibadan. Four different species of grass were offloaded with *Pennisetum purpureum* most frequently supplied. The quantity of grass supplied was more on Friday. Fiditi was recorded to be the location from which most of the grass species were mostly brought to the study area.

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