

Effect of fodder cutting management on quality of different varieties of oat (*Avena sativa* L.)

ABSTRACT

A field experiment was conducted to effect of cutting and splitting of nitrogen management on quality of different varieties of fodder oat during *Rabi* 2019-2020. The experiment was carried out with three treatments consisting of three varieties (RO-19, JHO-851, UPO-212) and four fodder cutting and splitting of nitrogen viz. (T₁) Two cuttings (55 DAS & 50% flowering) + 60% N as basal + 40% N at Ist cut; (T₂) Two cuttings (55 DAS & 50% flowering) + 50% N as basal + 50% N at Ist cut; (T₃) Three cuttings (55 DAS, 35 days after 1st cut & 50% flowering) + 50% N as basal + 25% N at Ist cut + 25% N at IInd cut and (T₄) Three cuttings (55 DAS, 35 days after 1st cut & 50% flowering) + 40% N as basal + 30% N at Ist cut + 30% N at IInd cut were laid out in split plot design with three replications. As per the results, the values of RO-19 obtained the highest Crude fibre (%), Digestible crude protein (%), Total Digestible Nutrient (%), and Watersoluble carbohydrates (%) as compared to JHO-851 and UPO-212. As regarded cutting and splitting of nitrogen management on Crude fibre (%), Digestible crude protein (%), Total Digestible Nutrient (%) and Watersoluble carbohydrates (%) were found maximum under Three cuttings (55 DAS, 35 days after 1st cut & 50% flowering) + 50% N as basal + 25% N at Ist cut + 25% N at IInd cut.

Keywords: Fodder cutting, Crude fibre, Digestible crude protein, Total Digestible Nutrient, Watersoluble carbohydrates.

INTRODUCTION

Oat (*Avena sativa* L.) is a member of the Poaceae family. The genus *Avena* has diploid, tetraploid, and hexaploid species, all of which have an $x=7$ chromosomal number. It is the common name for oat. It is a major cereal fodder crop that originated in the Western Mediterranean region and is typically produced during the *Rabi* season. It is used as green fodder and grain for animal nutrition. In many regions of the world, it is a major winter is a multifunctional crop that can be used for grain, grazing, fodder, or as a rotational crop. The oat plant has a great growth habit, recovers quickly after harvesting, and produces high-quality herbage.

The amount of nitrogen applied and when it is applied have a significant impact on the effectiveness of nitrogen level observation. Nitrogen should be administered to a crop at times when it will not cause substantial losses and will provide sufficient nitrogen when needed. Because of its productivity and profitability, splitting nitrogen application is a key nutrient management approach (Khosla *et al.* 2000). Growers can improve nutrient efficiency by splitting the total nitrogen application into two or more splits. Splitting nitrogen can help to reduce leaching and volatilization losses while also increasing the effectiveness of nitrogen application. Cutting management is a critical aspect in determining the growth, productivity, and quality of fodder crops.

Cutting management is a key element that influences the growth, productivity, and quality of fodder crops. For increased yields, general cutting management may be abandoned in fodder crops. Cutting has an impact on the crop's nutritional and natural resource usage (Kumar *et al.* 2001).

Multi-cut crops absorb more nutrients than single cut crops, this has a direct effect on the crop's nitrogen content, protein content, and other qualitative markers. Because cutting is such an important part of biomass synthesis, it is among the most significant determinants of green and dry forage yields (Patel *et al.* 2002). Two cuts are regularly administered at various times in an oat crop, however the first cut at 55 Days after sowing and the second cut at 50 % flowering, on the other hand, provided the best growth and output. (Sharma *et al.* 2001) Cutting management may be used in fodder crops in general to increase yields.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The experiment was carried out during the *Rabi* season 2019-20 at the Genetics and Plant Breeding farm, Acharya Narendra Deva University of Agriculture and Technology, Kumarganj, Ayodhya (U.P.). The field was well leveled having good soil condition. Geographically, Ayodhya (Kumarganj) falls in a subtropical climate and is situated at 26° 47' North latitude, 82° 12' East longitudes with an altitude of 113 meters above mean sea level. The soil of the experiment field was classified as silt loam in texture with alkaline reaction (pH 8.8) Low in organic carbon (0.25%) and available nitrogen (190 kg ha⁻¹), medium in phosphorus (16.5 kg ha⁻¹) and potash (238.1 kg ha⁻¹). The experiment was laid out in a split plot design with three replications. The main plot consisted of three oat varieties (RO-19, JHO-19 and UPO-212), whereas the sub-plot had three nitrogen levels (Two cuttings (55 DAS & 50% flowering) + 60% N as basal + 40% N at Ist cut, Two cuttings (55 DAS & 50% flowering) + 50% N as basal + 50% N at Ist cut, Three cuttings (55 DAS, 35 days after 1st cut & 50% flowering) + 50% N as basal + 25% N at Ist cut + 25% N at IInd cut and Three cuttings (55 DAS, 35 days after 1st cut & 50% flowering) + 40% N as basal + 30% N at Ist cut + 30% N at IInd cut). The sowing was done on 18 November 2019 in opened furrows 25cm apart using the seed rate of 100 kg/ha. Quality parameters determined at a half kilogram (500g) of fresh plant samples (stem and leaf) were taken from each treatment during each cutting and dried in an oven at 80°C for 24 hours then made powder then 10gm weight of the sample for analysis of quality parameters;

Crude fibre (%)

To determine crude fibre (%), 1.0 g of oven-dried plant material was taken in 250ml beaker, added 1.25% H₂SO₄ and distilled water and made the volume up to 200ml then placed on flame for 30 minutes filtered and washed. Then again added 1.25% NaOH and distilled water made the volume up to 200ml. Heated again for 30 minutes and residues were washed and filtered again. The residues were put in a pre-weighted crucible and it was placed in an oven at 105°C for drying for 24 hours. After recording the dry weight (W₁) the samples were placed in muffle furnace at 600 °C till grey or white ash was obtained. Then cool it and the weight of ash (W₂) was recorded and the crude fibre (%) was calculated following the formula;

$$\text{Crude fibre} = \frac{(\text{Weight of crucible} + \text{dry matter}) \times \text{Weight of crucible ash}}{\text{Amount of substance taken}} \times 100$$

Digestible Crude Protein

To find out the digestible crude protein (DCP) content of a feed, multiply the digestibility coefficient of the crude protein by the crude protein content of the feedstuff.

$$\text{DCP} = \text{Digestibility Co-efficient} \times \text{CP}$$

Water soluble carbohydrates

Water soluble carbohydrate was determined by AOAC (1975).

Total Digestible Nutrient

Moore *et al.* (1953) as follows:

$$\text{TDN}(\%) = \text{Digestible crude protein}(\%) + \text{Digestible crude fibre}(\%) + \text{Digestible Nitrogen free extract}(\%) + \text{Digestible ether extract}(\%) \times 2.25$$

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Crude fibre (%)

The crude fibre (%) was non-significant at all cutting stages of the crop. The maximum crude fibre (25.92, 25.52 and 26.30%) was recorded with variety RO-19 at all cutting stages, while minimum crude fibre (24.88, 24.55 and 25.30%) was found with variety UPO-212 during an experiment.

The crude fibre as cutting and splitting of nitrogen at first cut was found not affected significantly. The maximum crude fibre (25.95%) as first cut at two cuttings (55 DAS & 50% flowering) + 60% nitrogen as basal + 40% nitrogen at Ist cut whereas minimum crude fibre (25.14%) at two cuttings (55 DAS & 50% flowering) + 50% nitrogen as basal + 50% nitrogen at Ist cut and at second cut crude fibre (25.89%) was recorded at two cuttings (55 DAS & 50% flowering) + 50% nitrogen as basal + 50% nitrogen at Ist cut significantly higher at par with crude fibre (23.99) at three cuttings (55 DAS, 35 days after 1st cut & 50% flowering) + 40% nitrogen as basal + 30% nitrogen at Ist cut + 30% nitrogen at IInd cut and at third cut stage of crop as crude fibre (25.36%) at three cuttings (55 DAS, 35 days after 1st cut & 50% flowering) + 50% nitrogen as basal + 25% nitrogen at Ist cut + 25% nitrogen at IInd cut, where recorded minimum crude fibre (24.74%) at Three cuttings (55 DAS, 35 days after 1st cut & 50% flowering) + 40% nitrogen as basal + 30% nitrogen at Ist cut + 30% nitrogen at IInd cut. The result might be found due to soil moisture having a direct relationship with crude fibre content. Bhilare and Joshi, (2007), also obtained similar results.

Digestible Crude protein (%)

The digestible Crude protein (%) was observed as significantly not affected by varieties at all cut stages of crop and cutting and splitting of nitrogen at 35 Days after the first cut (IInd cut) and 50% flowering (IIIrd cut) affected significantly except 55 DAS are represented in Table- 1. The maximum digestible Crude protein (7.35 and 7.14 and 6.68%) was recorded by variety RO-19 at all cut stages whereas minimum digestible Crude protein (7.08, 6.87 and 6.61%) by variety UPO-212 at all cut stages.

The digestible crude protein was observed as cutting and splitting of nitrogen at the first cut was not affected significantly. The maximum digestible crude protein (7.27%) at three cuttings (55 DAS, 35 days after 1st cut & 50% flowering) + 40% nitrogen as basal + 30% nitrogen at 1st cut + 30% nitrogen at 2nd cut whereas minimum digestible crude protein (7.16%) at three cuttings (55 DAS, 35 days after 1st cut & 50% flowering) + 50% nitrogen as basal + 25% nitrogen at 1st cut + 25% nitrogen at 2nd cut and at second cut was found digestible crude protein (7.06%) at three cuttings (55 DAS, 35 days after 1st cut & 50%

flowering) + 40 % nitrogen as basal + 30 % nitrogen at 1st cut + 30% nitrogen at 2nd cut significantly higher at par with digestible crude protein (6.94%) at three cuttings (55 DAS, 35 days after 1st cut & 50 % flowering) + 50 % nitrogen as basal + 25% nitrogen at 1st cut + 25% nitrogen at 2nd cut while in third cut digestible crude protein (7.28%) was recorded maximum at three cuttings (55 DAS, 35 days after 1st cut & 50 % flowering) + 50 % nitrogen as basal + 25 % nitrogen at 1st cut + 25 % nitrogen at 2nd cut over of the three cuttings (55 DAS, 35 days after 1st cut & 50% flowering) + 40% nitrogen as basal + 30% nitrogen at 1st cut + 30% nitrogen at 2nd cut. Similar finding was reported by White, *et al* (1981).

Total Digestible Nutrient(%)

The data observed was on total digestible nutrients (%) as significantly was not affected by varieties and cutting and splitting of nitrogen at 35 Days after the first cut (IInd cut) and 50% flowering (IIIrd cut) affected significantly except 55 DAS are presented in Table- 1.

The data presented maximum total digestible nutrient (73.64, 71.43 and 73.56%) by variety RO-19 whereas minimum total digestible nutrient (70.84, 68.71 and 73.13%) by variety UPO-212 at all cut stages of crop. The total digestible nutrient was observed as cutting and splitting of nitrogen at first cut was not affected significantly. The maximum total digestible nutrient (72.80%) was found at three cuttings (55 DAS, 35 days after 1st cut & 50% flowering) + 40% nitrogen as basal + 30 % nitrogen at 1st cut + 30 % nitrogen at IInd cut whereas recorded minimum total digestible nutrient (71.68%) at three cuttings (55 DAS, 35 days after 1st cut & 50 % flowering) + 50% nitrogen as basal + 25% nitrogen at 1st cut + 25% nitrogen at IInd cut at the first cut stage and at the second cut stage was found that the highest total digestible nutrient (72.62%) significantly at three cuttings (55 DAS, 35 days after 1st cut & 50 % flowering) + 40% nitrogen as basal + 30% nitrogen at 1st cut + 30% nitrogen at IInd cut at par with total digestible nutrient (70.53%) at three cuttings (55 DAS, 35 days after 1st cut & 50 % flowering) + 50 % nitrogen as basal + 25 % nitrogen at Ist cut + 25% nitrogen at IInd cut and in third cut under was found total digestible nutrient (74.26%) at three cuttings (55 DAS, 35 days after 1st cut & 50 % flowering) + 40 % nitrogen as basal + 30 % nitrogen at Ist cut + 30 % nitrogen at IInd cut at par with total digestible nutrient (73.11%) at Three cuttings (55 DAS, 35 days after 1st cut & 50 % flowering) + 50% nitrogen as basal + 25% nitrogen at Ist cut + 25% nitrogen at IInd cut. Similar finding was reported by Bhilare and Joshi (2007).

Water soluble carbohydrates(%)

The water soluble carbohydrates (%) were recorded at various cut stages of the crop *i.e.* 55 DAS to at each cut as influenced by different cutting and splitting of nitrogen by different varieties of oat is summarized in Table-1.

The data present water soluble carbohydrates on different varieties not affected significantly. The water soluble carbohydrates were recorded as maximum (16.55, 16.07 and 12.44%) by variety RO-19 at all cut stages were recorded minimum (15.94, 15.48 and 12.14%) by variety UPO-212 at all cut stages. The water soluble carbohydrates as cutting and splitting of nitrogen at the first cut was not affected significantly. The maximum water soluble carbohydrates (16.38%) as first cut at three cuttings (55 DAS, 35 days after 1st cut & 50% flowering) + 40% nitrogen as basal + 30 % nitrogen at Ist cut + 30 % nitrogen at IInd cut whereas minimum crude fibre (16.10%) at three cuttings (55 DAS, 35

days after 1st cut & 50 % flowering) + 50 % nitrogen as basal + 25 % nitrogen at Ist cut + 25 % nitrogen at IInd cut and at second water soluble carbohydrates (15.90%) was recorded at Three cuttings (55 DAS, 35 days after 1st cut & 50 % flowering) + 40 % nitrogen as basal + 30 % nitrogen at Ist cut + 30 % nitrogen at IInd cut significantly higher at par with water soluble carbohydrates (15.66%) at three cuttings (55 DAS, 35 days after 1st cut & 50% flowering) + 50% nitrogen as basal + 25% nitrogen at Ist cut + 25% nitrogen at IInd cut and at third cut stage of crop as water soluble carbohydrates (12.56%) found maximum at three cuttings (55 DAS, 35 days after 1st cut & 50 % flowering) + 40 % nitrogen as basal + 30 % nitrogen at Ist cut + 30 % nitrogen at IInd cut, where recorded minimum water soluble carbohydrates (12.31%) at three cuttings (55 DAS, 35 days after 1st cut & 50% flowering) + 40% nitrogen as basal + 30% nitrogen at Ist cut + 30% nitrogen at IInd cut. Result might be found due to soil moisture having a direct relationship with crude fibre content. Coblenz *et al.* (2013) also obtained similar results.

CONCLUSION

Conclusively as per the results the values of RO-19 obtained the highest Crude fibre (%), Digestible crude protein (%), Total Digestible Nutrient (%) and Water soluble carbohydrates (%) significantly. Cutting and splitting of nitrogen management, Crude fibre (%), Digestible crude protein (%), Total Digestible Nutrient (%) and Water soluble carbohydrates (%) were found maximum under Three cuttings (55 DAS, 35 days after 1st cut & 50% flowering) + 50% N as basal + 25% N at Ist cut + 25% N at IInd cut.

Table-1: Crude fibre(%) and digestible crude protein(%) at subsequent cuttings influenced by the splitting of nitrogen on different varieties of oat. (*Avena sativa* L.).

Treatments	Crude fibre(%)			Digestible crude protein(%)		
	(I st cut)	(II nd cut)	(III rd cut)	(I st cut)	(II nd cut)	(III rd cut)
Varieties						
RO-19	25.92	25.52	26.30	7.35	7.14	6.68
JHO-851	25.84	25.04	25.84	7.22	7.01	6.61
UPO-212	24.88	24.55	25.30	7.08	6.87	6.00
SEM±	0.53	0.50	0.44	0.12	0.17	0.18
CD at 5%	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
Cutting and splitting of nitrogen management						
Two cuttings (55 DAS & 50% flowering)+60% Nasbasal+40% N at I st cut	24.95	25.69	0.00	7.20	6.32	0.00
Two cuttings (55 DAS & 50% flowering)+50% Nasbasal+50% N at I st cut	25.14	25.89	0.00	7.25	6.05	0.00
Three cuttings (55 DAS, 35 days after 1 st cut & 50% flowering) + 50% N asbasal+25% Nat I st cut+25% Nat II nd cut	24.85	24.59	25.36	7.16	6.94	7.28
Three cuttings (55 DAS, 35 days after 1 st cut & 50% flowering) + 40% N asbasal+30% Nat I st cut+30% Nat II nd cut	25.24	23.99	24.74	7.27	7.06	6.43
SEM±	0.61	0.58	0.26	0.43	0.19	0.10
CD at 5%	NS	1.72	0.78	NS	0.57	0.30

Table-2: Total Digestible Nutrient(%) and Water soluble carbohydrates(%) at subsequent cutting as influenced by the splitting of nitrogen on different varieties of oat. (*Avena sativa* L.).

Treatments	Total Digestible Nutrient(%)			Water soluble carbohydrates(%)		
	(I st cut)	(II nd cut)	(III rd cut)	(I st cut)	(II nd cut)	(III rd cut)
Varieties						
RO-19	73.64	71.43	74.84	16.55	16.07	12.44
JHO-851	72.24	70.07	73.56	16.25	15.77	12.29
UPO-212	70.84	68.71	73.13	15.94	15.48	12.14
SEm±	1.28	1.42	1.34	0.28	0.28	0.21
CD at 5%	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
Cutting and splitting of nitrogen management						
Two cuttings (55 DAS & 50% flowering)+60% Nasbasal+40% N at I st cut	71.96	67.89	0.00	16.20	14.32	0.00
Two cuttings (55 DAS & 50% flowering)+50% Nasbasal+50% N at I st cut	72.52	68.13	0.00	16.30	14.86	0.00
Three cuttings (55 DAS, 35 days after I st cut & 50% flowering) + 50% N asbasal+25% Nat I st cut+25% Nat II nd cut	71.68	70.53	73.11	16.10	15.66	12.31
Three cuttings (55 DAS, 35 days after I st cut & 50% flowering) + 40% N asbasal+30% Nat I st cut+30% Nat II nd cut	72.80	72.62	74.26	16.38	15.90	12.56
SEm±	1.48	1.64	0.78	0.33	0.32	0.18
CD at 5%	NS	4.39	2.34	NS	0.94	0.54

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