

ชื่อเรื่อง

Use of Vetiver in Soil Conservation in the Black and Red Soil Areas of India

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Abstract

Mr. Greenfield of the World Bank initiated the 'Vetiver technology' of soil and water conservation in 1986, in the Black (Vertisol) and the Red (Alfisol) soils of India, which cover more than 15 million ha of arable land and which for generations, have been subject to severe erosion (6 to 15 t/ha annually). Since then, through a series of field studies, the characteristics of this grass and the effectiveness of the technology have been evaluated. As compared to the existing technology (bunding), the Vetiver technology was observed to reduce soil erosion up to 65 per cent, reduce run off loss from 50 to 60 per cent and increase crop yields up to 25 per cent, apart from being the cheapest.

However, even with all the ideal characteristics of the plant itself and the evidences in favour of the technology, it is not getting acceptance in the officially sponsored soil conservation programs in India. It is believed that the real causes are the extensive field coverage needed to achieve annual financial targets and the reduced scope for 'cuts' by officials and contractors. Extensive awareness campaign among farmers and adoption of group farming system are suggested.