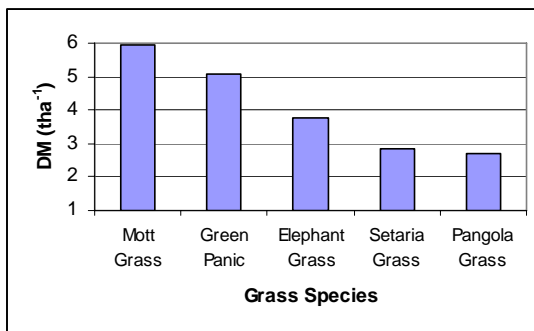


RANGE MANAGEMENT

Rangelands of Pakistan are fragile ecological resource and provide feed and shelter to the animals and fruit, wood, sports hunting and eco-tourism to the human being besides conserving environment provided they are properly managed. Sustainable grazing management or land resource use is a key issue of concern in most rangeland regions of Pakistan, therefore, rangeland research at PARC focuses on assessing the sustainable use of these drought prone rangelands.

Rangelands research investigated improved rangeland grasses and forage shrubs and their biomass production and use as well as understanding ecological balance of rangelands.

Improved rangeland grasses and forage shrubs



- Dry matter production of Mott grass (*Pennisetum purpurium*) and Green Panic (*Panicum maximum*) significantly out yielded the indigenous benchmark, i.e., Blue Panic grass.
- Green Panic (var. Gatton) has more tender growth than Mott grass, hence is recommended for further propagation in *Pothowar* tract.
- Biomass production of Ipil Ipil significantly increased at 50 cm and 100 cm clipping heights as compared with 10 cm clipping height in a double hedgerows trial.
- Biomass produced by hedgerows is used for mulching and green manuring which helps to improve soil fertility and reduces soil loss.



- Ecological parameters of Pabbi hills rangelands were determined. Total grazable dry matter (DM) was estimated as 347.27 kg/ha. Annual carrying capacity for cattle and goats was estimated as 12 ha/animal unit (AU).

