

## Milking the Benefits

In Andhra Pradesh, India, the whole of the groundnut plant is utilised by farmers. The nuts are harvested as a food source which can be sold, and the plant provides a nutritious and valuable animal feed. Unfortunately, the crop suffers every year from Tikka disease (leaf spots and rust) and this results in poor haulm (for fodder) and pod yields.

*“We store the fodder after harvest in November and feed cattle in summer when no green grass is available. We have noticed that, if we feed stored groundnut fodder, the yield of milk reduces. We have also observed that diseased feed causes diarrhoea and associated sickness to milk animals. But we have no choice other than feeding the diseased fodder to cattle.”*

*N. Gopal, Tettu village, Chittoor District,*



*Happy harvest – this farmer is pleased with the higher haulm and pod yield, and quality crop residues from growing improved groundnut cultivars*

*“We can get food for our children from anywhere but it is very difficult to procure quality fodder for our cattle. Hence, we request ICRISAT scientists to continue supplying of improved groundnut varieties and disease management technologies, which give higher haulm and pod yields and quality crop residues for our cattle.”*

For the last two years, the project team has been working with farmers in using a basket of integrated disease management (IDM) approaches on their groundnut crop. Groundnut cultivars, ICGV 89104 and ICGV 91114, when cultivated with IDM practices were shown to boost fodder and pod yields, and analysis of the fodder showed it to be of good quality and an excellent food source for milk animals.



*Farmers being trained in how to grow improved groundnut cultivars*

*“Most of the farmers have dairies and they sell milk to the nearby urban areas. High yielding dual-purpose groundnut cultivars responsive to IDM helped us in obtaining higher returns through mixed farming.”*

**R8339:** Evaluation of the effects of plant diseases on the yield and nutritive value of crop residues used for peri-Urban dairy production on the Deccan Plateau in India

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