

in local traditional veterinary chronicles which are centuries old. 28 plants species are used to treat ailments of the eye including pathogenic infections to physical damages. 22 plant species have been identified to which has been used to treat respiratory disorders and 18 plant species for the preparation of recipes to treat bone fractures and breakages in cattle and buffalo. 18 plant species were recognized that are used for snake bites and 17 for intestinal worm treatments. In treating throat and mouth diseases, 27 plant species are used and for sprains and swellings 17 species are used. Foot and hoof diseases are one of the major ailments in cattle and buffalo and 16 plant species are used in treating such ailments. For the medical preparations for the ear infections, 15 plant species are used and for treatments for the urinary system, 12 plant species are used. Mastitis is a serious udder problem in lactating cows and 16 plant species are in the medicinal preparations. Reproduction associated problems including dystokia, and abortions, proven treatments are made by using 14 plant species. 15 plant species are used to treat external parasitic diseases. This paper will discuss details of the plant species, their parts used, aspects to consider in obtaining of plant parts and preparation of different recipes.

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Energy saving scoop type rotary tiller blade for deep tillage

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The energy consumption for the land preparation is excessive during the primary and secondary tillage operations; because of the high draft force required. Many researchers were reported that the reverse rotational rotary tiller had an advantage for the deep tilling on the power requirement compared to the conventional rotary tiller. The reverse rotational rotary tiller can be used for deep tillage with less energy requirement. Three types of scoop type rotary tiller blades were fabricated by changing design parameters of the horizontal portion of the scoop surface of the blade for reverse rotational in order to minimize the re-tillage during deep tillage achieving low power consumption. Blades with cutting angles 25°, 35 and 55° were tested with conventional blade (45° cutting angle) at 15.6% soil moisture conditions.

When compared the maximum power and the torque at maximum power, blade with angle 35° showed best performance, while others were in the order of conventional type (45°)>55°>25°. In terms of soil tilth, significantly better performances were shown by the blades with angles 35° and 45° with reducing bulk density and cone penetration resistance values. Blade with angle 35° showed highest backward throwing distance as 660 mm. Blade with angle 55° showed lower backward throwing distance. Blade with angle 35° performed best with lowest power consumption, higher pulverization and backward throwing ability and can be recommended for reverse rotation in deep tillage.

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Sustainability of home gardens in Masemulla forest area in Matara district

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Home-gardens are meant to be sustainable land use systems that provide a variety of products and services to the people. This study was undertaken to evaluate the sustainability of home-gardens in Masemulla forest area in Matara district. Ullala, which is a small village closed to Masemulla forest area, was selected for the study. A survey was conducted using a random sample of 40 home-gardens in the area. Average land area ranged from 0.25 to 0.5 acres with an average family size of 2-8 and almost all the families belonged to the low income group.

Majority of home gardens (90%) consisted of three canopy layers-near the ground surface herbaceous layer, followed by an intermediate layer of shrubs and a tree layer at the upper level. Tree density ranged from low to medium with a combination of mixed species arranged in a random way. Canopy coverage was about 15 to 50% and there were more than 50% of unutilized land areas. Species diversity in the selected home-gardens was low ranging from 20–25 species and the no of woody taxa

was about 5-10. Dominant tree species included jak (*Artocarpus heterophyllus*), coconut (*Cocos nucifera*), mango (*Mangifera indica*), areca nut (*Areca catechu*), mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) etc. Majority of house holders (90%) considered cinnamon (*Cinnamomum verum*) as an additional income source. All the householders consumed the products of the home-gardens as food.

Less than 10% of house-holders rare animals and although there is a good potential for bee keeping, less than 1% of householders practiced this. Wild-boar and wild-rat attack was one of the main problems in crop production. Soil erosion was also a problem in this area and less than 30% of householders practiced some form of soil conservation methods. Half of the householders fulfilled their energy requirement from their home-gardens. Although there are many advantages in home-gardening, householders don't pay adequate attention as they don't fully understand the various benefits of proper home-gardening.