Forages for Plantation Crops

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Editors: **H.M. Shelton and W.W. Stür**

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Foreword

The countries and populations of Southeast Asia and the South Pacific are rapidly improving their economies and their demand for meat is increasing. Projections of population increase to the year 2000 indicate that demand for meat will not be met and the gap between total requirement and local production will be even greater than it is currently. There is little incentive for increased commercial ruminant production in many countries and animal products are usually produced as secondary by-products of other more important agricultural activities. Clearly this situation will change as policy makers perceive the negative influence of increasing beef imports on their economies.

The shortage of land in many countries ensures that the obvious potential for integrating ruminants with the extensive areas of plantation crops in the region will be exploited. However, the successful exploitation of this resource requires that suitable forage species and management strategies are available. It is with this objective that the ACIAR Project 8560 on Improvement of Forage Productivity in Plantation Crops was initiated in 1988.

The research work of the ACIAR Project Group that is presented in these Proceedings is the result of a genuinely cooperative effort. We have worked closely on the planning and implementation of the program and have attempted to integrate our respective resources in the most efficient manner. We hope that the value of this approach will be evident to our readers.

This publication of the Proceedings has two objectives. It allows the presentation of the first two-and-a-half years of our work. Just as importantly, it has provided the opportunity for our research group to meet other international scientists and share experiences on the topic of forages for plantation crops.

The ultimate objective of the work is to provide the information needed by extension workers and farmers to increase the productivity of ruminants in plantation crops. The opportunity for increasing ruminant production in this way *is* considerable indeed.

H.M. Shelton
W.W. Stür

Editors

Acknowledgments

Careful planning and good organisation were the keys to the success of our Workshop enhanced by the location in beautiful Bali. A number of institutions and individuals assisted greatly with the organisation of the meeting.

We thank the Rector of Udayana University, Professor I.G.P. Aduyana, and the Dean of the Faculty of Animal Husbandry for kindly agreeing to host the Workshop in Bali.

We are especially indebted to the untiring efforts of Professor I.K. Rika and his team who organised the venue for accommodation, registration, meeting room, distribution of papers, coffee breaks and pre- and post-workshop field trips. We also thank Mr I.K. Mendra, Mr Oka Nurjaya and his wife Mrs Sri Agung.

It was a pleasure for the editors to prepare the papers for these Proceedings, and we are grateful for the creative efforts of all authors who contributed so much to the Workshop through their presentations and informal comments.

Finally, we wish to thank the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), and the ACIAR Forage Coordinator, Dr G.J. Blair, for their sponsorship of the Workshop.

We believe that this volume represents an important addition to the literature and to our understanding of the problems and prospects for promoting forages in plantation crops.

The Editors