

What is silage?

Making silage is a method of preserving and storing green feed through anaerobic fermentation (without oxygen). Silage can be made from a diversity of forage materials and stored for periods when feeds are less available or farmers busy with other activities.



Usage

- After 20 days of incubation, the silage can be used to feed ruminants:
 - Buffaloes and cattle: 7-12 kg/head/day;
 - Calves: 4-7 kg/head/day;
 - Goats: 1-3 kg/head/day.

In addition, the animals are fed with green grass and/or rice straw.

- After each time you take feed out of the silage bag, the bag must be tied tightly.
- Once opened, the silage must be used continuously until run out of feed.



FARMER TESTIMONY

Mr. Vi Van Uan, Head of Na Sang 1 village

Animal nutritious diet right at home

Since learning and applying the silage technique, our lives have transformed. We no longer need to herd the cattle daily, and they gain weight much faster. In the past, we would spend the whole day grazing our cows, even though sometimes the cows return home with empty stomachs from all the walking. Now, with silage, they have a consistent and nutritious diet right at home.

Impact on the family

This change means our children rarely miss school to help with tending grazed livestock. They can focus more on their education, and we have more time to improve our farming and quality of life.

With the advancements from Na Sang 1, I see a brighter future ahead, full of hope and opportunity for our family and our community.



Grow Sustainably, Eat Healthy
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A TECHNICAL GUIDE:
**Making silage from
green raw fodder
material**



STEP 0: MATERIAL PREPARATION

1. Green raw fodder material (forage grass, maize leaves and stems, cassava,...)
: 1,000 kg

- Green feed is dried, chopped, and has a moisture content of about 60-70%

2. Biology product (EM): Manufacturer's Guide

3. Corn flour or rice bran: 20 kg

4. Edible salt: 3 - 4kg

- Mix together EM, corn flour/rice bran, and salt.

STEP BY STEP GUIDE TO MAKING SILAGE



STEP 1: CHOOSING A LOCATION TO STORE SILAGE BAGS

- Selecting a place dry, with no stagnant water and good air circulation, convenient walking around, and close to the stall where animals will be fed.
- Using 2-layers silage bags
- Applying measures to avoid bags being damages by rodents and insects. If the bags are perforated, air will penetrate and cause mold and food spoilage.



STEP 2: MIXING THE MATERIALS



Mix evenly the mixture of EM, rice bran, and salt with the green forage. There are two methods in this step.

Method 1: Spreading the forage evenly on a canvas then spread EM, rice bran, and salt; Stirring well. Spreading a layer of 5-10 cm straw at the bottom of the silage bag. Putting the mixture into the silage bag, compact it from top to bottom, evenly fill all corners of the bag.



Method 2: Spreading a layer of 5-10 cm straw at the bottom of the silage bag. Putting the green feed into silage bags in layers of about 10cm thick, then spreading the mixture of biology product (EM), rice bran, and salt evenly on the surface layer; repeat until the bag is full. Ingredients need to be put into silage bags as quickly as possible, and compacted properly to remove air as much as possible.



STEP 3: CLOSING THE SILAGE BAG



- Spreading a thin layer of rice straw on the top of green feed
- Using your hand to push out all the air from the bag and then use a rubber band to tightly tie the bag
- Writing the incubation date on the outside of the silage bag