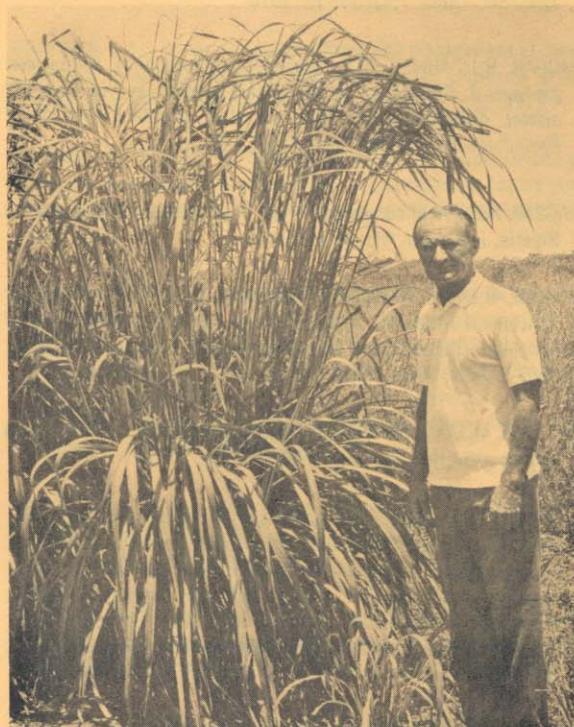


En 1974 fue introducida a los Llanos Orientales de Colombia, procedente de la Estación Experimental Agrícola de Shika, Nigeria, por el Dr. Bela Grof, del Programa de Pastos Tropicales del CIAT. En diciembre de 1977 comenzó su evaluación en CPAC. Sin embargo, en 1942 fue introducida por primera vez al Brasil mostrando muy buena adaptación, especialmente en las zonas del Centro y del Nordeste.

Esta gramínea sobresale por sus altos rendimientos, resistencia a la sequía y al fuego, y por su adaptación a suelos ácidos e infértilles con alto contenido de aluminio. Además, los considerables aumentos de peso en los animales reflejan una muy buena aceptación por el ganado.

Los resultados obtenidos en CPAC revelan una producción de MS superior a la de *Brachiaria* spp. y una buena asociación con leguminosas, también con altos rendimientos (30% MS > *Brachiaria decumbens* asociado con leguminosas). Su capacidad de carga es de 3 animales/ha en asociación con *Stylosanthes capitata* y *Calopogonium mucunoides* durante la estación lluviosa y de 1 animal/ha en la época seca, obteniéndose ganancias de peso/animal de 270 kg/ha y 130 kg/ha, respectivamente. La producción promedio de semilla pura de *A. gayanus* obtenida en CPAC ha sido de 120 kg/ha.

Hasta el momento, en comparación con otras gramíneas utilizadas en el Cerrado, *A. gayanus* es menos atacada por la "cigarrhina", uno de los problemas más graves de los pastizales en el Brasil. Tampoco se han observado problemas de fotosensibilización en animales bajo pastoreo en esta gramínea.



En la foto aparece el Dr. Bela Grof, investigador de Agronomía del Programa de Pastos Tropicales del CIAT, responsable de la introducción y de las evaluaciones agronómicas iniciales de *Andropogon gayanus* en Colombia.

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