

SUMMARY

The Bajo Cauca in Colombia, originally in forest, has over the last 60 years, been converted into pastures, the most common grass being *Hyparrhenia rufa*. Soils have now become degraded and pasture production is reduced. Four grasses and 13 legumes, considered promising in these acid soils, were evaluated for adaptation and production. The grasses, *Andropogon gayanus* CIAT 621, *Brachiaria humidicola* CIAT 679, *B. decumbens* CIAT 606 and *H. rufa*, all performed well; the best legumes were *Stylosanthes guianensis* CIAT 184, *Desmodium ovalifolium* CIAT 350, *Pueraria phaseoloides* CIAT 9900, *Centrosema pubescens* CIAT 438 and *C. macrocarpum* CIAT 5065. Initial establishment and production of *S. capitata* CIAT 1019, 1405, *S. guianensis* CIAT 136, *D. gyroides* CIAT 3001 and *Aeschynomene histrix* CIAT 9690 were good but the *Stylosanthes* spp. succumbed to pests and diseases and the other two legumes were badly affected by the cutting treatments.