The forage team of CIAT is recognized as a world leader in the areas of Brachiaria breeding and forage legume development and linking forages to livestock production systems and clients.

**Brachiaria Improvement**

Resistance to major pest and diseases

![Resistant, Intermediate, Susceptible](image)

- **1998** Spittlebug resistance
- **2004**

Selected forage genotypes are evaluated by partners in different environments and production systems.

The forage team develops **methods on participatory evaluation** of forages and inclusion into farming systems.

**Recent releases of forage materials**

- *Brachiaria hybrid* Hay
- *B.* hybrid

Screening procedure is based on total root length in response to Al (*B. ruiziiensis*, *B. brizantha*, *B. decumbens*).

- **Dry Season**
- **Adaptation to acid soils, and to drought**

- *Rhzoctonia* foliar blight disease symptoms (CIAT 36061, BR04-1214)

The Brachiaria hybrids are currently utilized in pasture systems in LAC, SE Asia, with the aim to expand into Sub-Saharan Africa.

**Economic information** is generated to guide decision makers (farmers, extension agencies, politicians) to assess the economic and environmental effects of forage technology adoption.

**A New Livestock System - SE Asia**

Improved feed, more animals, more income, more time, better livelihoods.

**CD Data Base of Tropical Forages**

Information on agronomic characterization of 5,374 accessions of grasses and legumes, evaluated in 230 sites of Tropical America and Africa.

**Pasturas Tropicales Journal and CD**

More than 600 scientific articles and research notes.

**SoFT: Selection of Forages for the Tropics**

A database of species adaptation and management reflecting 50 years of research and application.

**CaNaSTA: Crop Niche Selection for Tropical Agriculture**

GIS-based interactive decision support tool to target potential forage options.

Tools are developed with the objective to make experimental data available to a wide range of users, addressing farmers, development projects, NGOs, NARS, IARCs, educational institutions and the private sector. Information is available through the Web with more than 200,000 visits in 2006.