Oats in South-East Asia?
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Oat is a popular forage crop which may be grazed, cut-and-carried, made into hay, silage or balage. Dairy cattle farms in Taiwan depend heavily on the imported oat forage for animal feed. However, the international oat forage trade is becoming unstable and the price increasing. To provide alternative forage options to Taiwan’s dairy cattle industry, an integrative forage research project is initiated and oat breeding is one of the components. Historically, oat research has been started in Taiwan at latest since 1930’s. In the 1980’s, a forage oat variety has been welcomed with enthusiasm by grower and dairy cattle farmers. Oat has therefore a proved potential to be grown under the climate condition in Taiwan. The renaissance of oat breeding in Taiwan is made possible through the participation to the Quaker International Oat Nursery and the generous germplasm sharing from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. We are collecting preliminary phenotypic data and aim to share our results to the community, particularly to regions sharing similar natural conditions.

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