

THE AZOLLA GREAT POTENTIAL IS BEING STUDIED AND USED IN INDIA

[Azolla](#), an aquatic plant common in different countries, is being used for years as a bio-fertilizer in rice production. It is in India, however, that this plant is also being used in smallholder farms as animal feed.

The potential of this plant as food for animals (cattle, fish, pigs and poultry) is currently being studied by the Indian [Centro de Recursos Naturales NARDEP](#). The studies are aimed at developing cost-effective technologies to multiply production and use of Azolla, benefiting smaller producers. The Natural Resource Center NARDEP also organizes training courses, intended for farmers and other interested actors, on the cultivation of Azolla and its use in the cultivation of rice and as animal feed.

Azolla is a floating fern and houses blue green alga that is responsible for the fixation and assimilation of atmospheric nitrogen. This high-protein plant is easy to grow and can be used as animal feed or as a bio-fertilizer for rice. Dairy farmers of Kerala, for example, are using low-cost technology to produce Azolla and use it with livestock, especially in farms that have too little land for fodder production.

In the NARDEP Center's website, technical documents and information on Azolla and its use can be found. The [Agricultures magazine's](#) website also provides complete information on the works implemented by NARDEP. In Latin American countries studies on the potential of this plant are also spreading, as well as experiments on its use in different fields. The [Instituto Nacional de Ciencias Agrícolas](#) (National Institute of Agricultural Sciences) of Cuba, for example, conducted an interesting study and the results show that the use of Azolla in association with rice cultivation can reduce the use of herbicides.

To know more

[India Development Gateway's article](#)

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[Article by CENIAP Venezuela](#)

[Hawaii University's article](#)

[Use of Azolla in Ecuador on youtube](#)

[Cultivation of Azolla on youtube](#)

