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## **EFFECT OF UREA SUPPLEMENTATION OF THE VALUE OF NaOH-TREATED PADDY STRAW**

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Paddy straw, variety H<sub>4</sub>, treated with 4% NaOH (w/w) solution (at the rate of 1.2 l/kg of straw) by spray treatment, along with 100 g ground maize, with or without urea (0-8 g/100 g) concentrate representing 0-2.65 of total DM consumed) was fed *ad libitum* to growing sheep, in order to assess the influence of NPN supplementation on its nutritive value.

Urea supplementation up to 1.87% (10 g urea/100 g concentrate) resulted in significant increase in digestibility. Beyond 1.87% there was no significant influence on digestibility but voluntary intake increased. At 2.65% level of supplementation voluntary DM intake was 30% higher than the intake of the diet containing no urea.

It appears that 2% is the optimum level of urea supplementation for 4% NaOH (w/w) treated paddy straw. Further research is however required before practical rations can be formulated.