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EFFECTS OF FEEDING COLOCASIA CORM MEAL ON THE GROWTH OF PIGS

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Colocasia (*Colocasia esculanta* (L) Schott), an aroid, exists in a wild state throughout the low-lying areas of Sri Lanka. The meal prepared from the corms of colocasia contained (dry matter basis) 2.15, 1.23, 8.35, 9.68 and 78.6 per cent crude protein, ether extract, crude fibre, ash and carbohydrates, respectively. The object of this study was to ascertain whether colocasia corm meal (CCM) could be used to replace maize in diets for growing pigs. Because of the presence of anti-nutritional factor(s) in raw CCM[1], boiling as a means of eliminating these factor(s) was also investigated.

Inclusion of raw CCM depressed growth and feed efficiency of pigs and this was attributed to the presence of anti-growth factor(s). Boiling the corms for 30 min., however, appears to eliminate or reduce the anti-growth factor(s). The results suggest that boiled CCM could be used up to 10% level in diet for growing pigs. Our data also indicate that the level of inclusion may be increased to 20% by prolonging the boiling time.

Reference

1. Ravindran, V., Rajaguru, A. S. B., de Silva, K. C. *and* Fernando, B. (1982). *J. Anim. Sci* (Suppl. 1), **55,** 293.