

EVALUATION OF TWO POULTRY FEED RATIONS  
ON THE PERFORMANCE OF GROWERS

Dhammika Abeygunasekera and K.K. Pathirana  
Dept. of Animal Science,  
Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ruhuna

The objective of the study was to formulate a nutritionally balanced grower test ration (TR) for comparison with a commercial ration (CR). Sixty growers weighing  $0.968 \pm 0.03$  kg and 13 weeks old were divided into 6 uniform groups of 10 birds each. Using a completely random design the TR and the CR were randomized into the 6 groups resulting in 3 replicates per treatment. Rations were fed for 8 weeks from the 13th to the 20th week of age. TR vs CR feed intake of  $67.6 \pm 2.3$  vs  $82.8 \pm 4.8$  g/bird/d ( $P < 0.01$ ), live weight gain of  $56.8 \pm 6.5$  vs  $47.6 \pm 4.6$  g/bird/week ( $P > 0.05$ ) resulted in a feed conversion ratio (f.c.r) of  $10.1 \pm 4.03$  vs  $15.3 \pm 6.4$  gm. feed/g gain ( $P > 0.05$ ), respectively. The cost/kg of TR was 30 cents less than the retail price of Rs. 4.50/kg of CR. The TR was more economical than the CR since birds ate significantly less ( $P < 0.01$ ) of the cheaper TR to gain more in weight with a better f.c.r indicating the nutritional superiority of TR over CR as well. Indications are that more cost/benefit effective grower rations than some of the commercial rations can be formulated for use in the locality.