

EVIDENCE FOR THE PRESENCE OF ANTI-NUTRITIONAL
FACTORS IN RAW JAK SEEDS

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Large quantities of Jak (Artocarpus heterophyllus) seeds are available during the fruiting season, particularly in the midcountry and lowcountry areas of Sri Lanka. The price of jak seeds during these periods is relatively cheaper than cereals. Jak seeds are known to be a good source of energy and the current study was conducted to evaluate raw jak seeds as a potential replacement for maize in chick diets.

The jak seeds contained (dry matter basis) 7.9% crude protein, 3.2% crude fat, 11.7% crude fibre, 3.5% ash and 73.7% carbohydrates. In the feeding trial, three test rations containing 0, 12.5 and 25% raw jak seed meal (JSM) were fed to day-old White Leghorn cockerels for a period of 28 days. Inclusion of raw JSM adversely affected the gains, feed intake, feed efficiency and liveability of chicks. Thirty per cent mortality was recorded in chicks fed rations containing 25% raw JSM. Gross pathology of internal organs suggest that haemagglutinin may be the anti-nutritional factor present in raw jak seeds.

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