B-87 : EFFECT OF SUPPLEMENTAL LIGHT ON GROWTH OF RABBITS

E R K Perera, R A P de Silva, A N F Perera
Dept. of Animal Sci., Fac. of Agric., University of Peradeniya.

Two experiments were conducted to examine the response of body weight gain (BWG) and feed conversion efficiency (FCE) to provision of supplemental light in rabbits. In experiment 1, 44 eight weeks old New Zealand White crossbred rabbits were divided into 8 groups by age and body weight. Natural day light + 4 h supplemental light was provided to 4 groups, whereas the other 4 groups were exposed to natural day light only, for a period of 5 weeks. In experiment 2, 20 six weeks old rabbits were individually subjected to one of the above treatments for a period of 7 weeks. The results of both the experiments revealed significant (P) improvement in BWG and FCE in rabbits in response to provision of 4 h supplemental lighting. As the additional cost incurred in providing 4 h supplemental light per day is less than Rs.1.00 per 100 rabbits, these results suggest that provision of supplemental light is economical and can be used to improve the growth performance and feed efficiency of growing rabbits.