

## B-140: Proximate composition of some non conventional ruminant feeds

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Nutritive value of 8 non conventional feeds were evaluated. Dry matter (DM) content of tested feeds varied from 3% Banana Pseudostem (BPS) to 89% Sugarcane Bagasse (SB). Though the Crude Protein content (CP) showed a variation from 2.23% (SB) to 27.18 (Albizzia) except BPS and SB all the other feeds were able to fulfil the minimum CP requirement for Rumen microbes.

The highest Ether Extract (EE) value and Nitrogen Free Extract (NFE) values were observed in Japan Jabara (*Eichhornia crassipes*) and Tea Refuse (TR) respectively. Crude Fibre (CF) and CP values were negatively related ( $r^2 = -0.82$ ). Somewhat low relationship ( $r^2 = 0.467$ ) between CP and Dry Matter Digestibility (DMD) indicates that species which were high in CF were not necessarily low in DMD. Organic Matter Digestibility (OMD), Total Digestible Nutrient (TDN) and Metabolizable Energy (ME<sub>kj/kg</sub>) values also showed a similar trend as DMD.

Feeding value of Sugarcane Tops (SCT) was comparable to Average Quality Grass (AQG) in terms of CP and TDN. Though the TDN of Albizzia was low (29%), it can successfully be supplemented with feeds such as SB and Rice Straw. Wathupalu (*Micanea scandens*) and Japan Jabara are rich in CP, TDN and Ash, but their use is hindered by low DM content. Therefore, they have to be wilted and fed or supplemented with other feeds. BPS was rich in DMD but low in DM and CP. Therefore, mixing of former with Banana leaves which has high CP and DM would improve the feeding value. High DM, CP, DMD and TDN values of TR show its potential in Ruminant feeding.