

## Formulation of low cost ration using non-conventional feed resources for growing rabbits

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An experiment was carried out to study the effect of two formulated rations on performance of growing rabbits compared to the broiler finisher ration. These rations were formulated to have 19% crude protein and 4648 kcal/ kg energy which was similar to that of broiler finisher ration using Jack (*Artocarpus heterophyllus*) seeds, Mango (*Mangifera indica*) seeds, Avocado (*Persea americana*) seeds and offal meal. Eighteen New Zealand white rabbits were blocked according to the age and allocated to rations randomly within a block. Rabbits were housed in individual cages and were fed with 50 g of concentrates and 300 g of fresh *Brachiaria brizantha* every day. Feed intake and feces out put per rabbit was measured every day for 35 days where as weight of animal was measured weekly. Dry matter digestibility, feed conversion ratio (FCR) and cost of feed per kg of weight gain were calculated using above data. Experiment was done according to randomized complete block design with 3 replications and statistically analyzed using SAS software package. Treatment means were compared using DNMRT.

According to the results, cost of production of ration I and ration II were much lower compared to broiler finisher. Diet did not have any significant effect on the feed intake, weight gain, dry matter digestibility or the FCR by rabbits. FCR was much higher for two test rations compared to broiler finisher. Cost of feed per kg of body weight gain was much higher ( $p < 0.05$ ) for broiler finisher compared to other two rations. The values were 133.83, 95.76 and 64.69 Rs/ kg of weight gain for broiler finisher ration, ration I and ration II respectively. According to these results, two low cost rations namely, ration I and II can replace the broiler finisher ration with out any problems. Use of these rations could cut down the cost of production and there by increase the profit margin. However, it is important to come up with a system to collect these seeds in the country.

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