

Feed production for broilers using the low-cost feeding materials available in Ampara

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The feed-cost alone accounts for 60-65 percent of the total farm expense. Feeding with locally available materials reduces the cost of production and promotes the profit of farmers. The experiment was conducted to produce feed rations for broilers using locally available low -cost feed materials in Ampara.

A commercially available feed ration (T1) was the control. The nutrient composition of that ration included protein 21.5%, fat 7.5%, calcium 1% and phosphorus 1% in the broiler starter and protein 18.5%, fat 7.5%, calcium 1% and phosphorus 1% in the broiler finisher. Mixture of 30% coconut cake, 20% of broken rice, 15% of fish meal, 30% of rice polish, 4.6% of maize seeds and 01% of milk powder as the broiler starter and 25% of coconut cake, 30% of broken rice, 13% of fish meal, 30% of rice polish and 01% of milk powder as the broiler finisher were used in (T2). 1.5% of green gram seeds instead of maize and 23% of broken rice were used in the boiler starter in (T3). The other materials and their quantities were similar to the (T2). The broiler finisher in (T3) was similar to that of (T2). The recommendations of the Department of Livestock Development and Health were followed in the management. Green vegetables were provided to the all the treatments. The experimental design was CRD with 09 groups in three replicates. The group size was 20 birds. The duration of rearing was six weeks. The birds were weighed in weekly intervals. The live weight, carcass weight, carcass recovery percentage and cost of feed were compared.

The effect of the treatments was significant ($p < 0.05$). There is no significant difference between T1 (Commercial feed) and T2 (Local feed ration) at $\alpha = 0.05$. The carcass recovery percentage of T1 was 66.1% and in T2 that was 70.2%. The cost of feed per bird with the commercial feed was Rs 132 and that with the formulated local feed (T2) was Rs.52.00. The formulated feed ration (T2) using locally available material in Ampara area reduced the cost of production and gave a higher carcass recovery percentage comparing to commercial feed. Further experiments are recommended to reduce coconut cake content in the T2 ration.

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