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Effects of fish silage given with water on growth performance, organ weights and carcass parameters of broiler chickens

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Fish silage (FS) is a nutritious liquid feed produced by ensiling fish waste either with fermentable sugars or acids. Fish silage has to be co-dried with a suitable material if to be used in practical poultry diets. The objective of this study was to determine the effects of giving FS with water on growth and some carcass parameters of broiler chicken. Twenty days old broiler chicks (n=36) were allocated into 12 pens. From day 21 to 42, broilers in six pens received normal water, while those in other six pens received water containing 5% FS. 5% FS reduced the pH of normal water from 6 to 4.1. The feed intake was not affected by giving FS with water. However, the intake of water with FS (290ml/bird/day) was significantly lower than that of water without FS (353 ml/bird/day). Consequently, water to feed ratio reduced when FS was mixed with water. FS given with water had no significant effects on other growth parameters such as live weight on day 42, weight gain, feed conversion ratio and weights of visceral organs such as liver, heart, gizzard, pancreas and proventriculus. Interestingly, broilers given FS supplemented water had higher empty carcass weight ($P=0.06$), dressing percentage ($P<0.05$) and sellable carcass weight ($P<0.05$) than those given normal water. It was concluded that the provision of water with 5% FS reduced the water intake and increased the empty carcass weight and dressing percentage of broiler chickens.

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