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Growth performance and nutrient digestibility of growing pigs fed a mixture of palm kernel meal and cassava peel meal

Abstract

In a 42 days feeding trials, twenty growing crossbred pigs with mean initial body weights of 16 ± 0.8 kg were assigned randomly to 5 dietary treatment groups of four pigs each. A basal diet was formulated. The basal diet was based on cassava flour, maize offals, soyabean meal and brewer's dried grain (BDG). A mixture of cassava peel meal (CPM) and palm kernel meal (PKM) replaced the BDG fraction in the basal diet in the ratio 2:0, 0:2, 1:1 and 1.75:1.75 in diets II, III, IV and V respectively. Each diet was offered on *ad libitum*

basis. Pigs were individually weighed on weekly basis until the end of the experiment. Daily voluntary feed intake was monitored.

Growing pigs responded non-significantly ($p > 0.05$) to the mixture of different fibre sources in body weight gain, feed conversion ratio and protein efficiency ratio except for feed intake, which varied significantly ($p < 0.05$). Data on final body weight was described using the linear regression method. The slope of regression of final body weight (y) (kg/pig/week) depending on weeks (x) (kg/week) was highest on diet V (3.525 ± 0.1842) and lowest on diet II (2.074 ± 0.1742). Digestibility values also varied significantly ($p < 0.05$) with ether extract having the average digestibility value (%) of 90.32 and ash the lowest value of 53.60.

Key words:

dietary fibre, additivity, efficiency of utilisation, weight gain



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