

Ensiled taro leaves as replacement for fish meal (2)

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Effect of Taro (

Colocasia esculenta

) leaf silage as replacement for fish meal on feed intake and growth performance of crossbred pigs

Abstract

Eighteen crossbred (Large White x Local) male pigs with initial body weight of 20.9 ± 0.29 kg were allocated randomly into 3 treatments replicated 6 times, with one pig in each pen. The treatments were ensiled leaves of taro (

Colocasia esculenta

) replacing 0 (FM), 50 (FM-TS) or 100 (TS) % of the protein from fish meal in a basal diet of sugar palm syrup and rice bran.

Total dry matter feed intake was lower in TS than in FM and FM-TS ($P < 0.01$), also when expressed on a live weight basis (37.8, 41.9 and 33.1 g/kg for FM, FM-TS and TS, respectively) ($P < 0.01$). Average daily gain was highest for FM-TS (278g), followed by FM (226g) and TS (119g) ($P < 0.05$). Dry matter feed conversion and cost of feed per kg gain were highest for TS (8.79 kg/kg gain and 2.24 US\$/ kg gain, respectively) and lowest for FM-TS (4.69 kg/kg gain and 1.09 US\$/kg gain, respectively) ($P > 0.05$). Daily gains and feed conversion were only around 50% of the genetic potential of the pigs for these traits.

Further research is needed to identify the true constraints to pig growth when protein from ensiled taro leaves is a major component of the diet.

Key words:

Feed conversion ratio, rice bran, sugar palm syrup



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