

Growth performances of broiler chickens fed on molasses enriched cassava fibre based-diet supplemented with enzymes

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1 ABSTRACT

This study was designed to evaluate the effects of molasses enriched cassava fibre based-diet supplemented with fibrolytic enzymes on growth performances of broilers. Chicks were fed for 07 weeks on feed in which 50% of maize was substituted with cassava fibre enriched with molasses and supplemented with enzyme. These chicks were, compared to chicks fed on the control ration without cassava fibre and any supplement. From day 49, faeces were collected for 3 consecutive days to evaluate the digestibility of feed components. The results showed that the ration supplemented with enzyme (R₅₀E) induced the highest digestibility of organic matter, nitrogen, NDF and crude fibre. The highest (p<0.05) live weight and weight gain was recorded with the same ration. While, the inclusion of 2% molasses (R₅₀M₂) decreased (p<0.05) weight gain and live weight. No significant effect was observed between treatment groups for feed intake and feed conversion ratio. The cost of production of live weight decreased significantly (p<0.05) with cassava fibre in the ration compared to the control treatment. No significant (p>0.05) difference was recorded between treatment groups for carcass characteristics, digestive organs and hematological parameters, except for the length of the intestine and blood platelets that increased (p<0.05) with enzyme (R₅₀E) and molasses supplemented with enzyme (R₅₀M₂E) respectively. The serum content in ALT, urea, total cholesterol and LDL-cholesterol decreased while total protein and HDL-cholesterol increased with the inclusion of enzyme in the ration. The ration enriched with molasses increased LDL-cholesterol and decreased serum content in creatinine and total protein. It was concluded that fibrolytic enzymes improve digestion of cassava fibre based-feed, growth performance and reduce the cost of production of broilers.