

EFFECTS OF SUPPLEMENTING TANNIN-RICH SHRUBS TO BASAL DIET OF WATER SPINACH ON GROWTH AND MEAT PRODUCTION OF GOATS

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ABSTRACT

Sixteen growing male Bach Thao goats with average live weight of 14.9 ± 0.48 kg were used in a *Completely Randomized Design* (CRD) with 4 replications and four treatments. The four treatments were water spinach ad libitum and concentrate; water spinach ad libitum and concentrate plus *Camellia sinensis*; water spinach ad libitum plus *Mimosa pigra*; water spinach ad libitum plus *Leucaena leucocephala*. Water spinach was offered ad libitum with the amount of 120% of average daily intake. Concentrated supplementation was fed at 120 g/head/day. The trial lasted 90 days. The results showed that the intake of DM, organic matter and crude protein significantly increased ($P < 0.05$) with supplying tannin-rich shrub in the diets. Daily gain and feed conversion ratio also significantly enhanced when increasing the dietary tannin content of tannin-rich shrub ($P < 0.05$). The study showed that nutrition was improved by increasing tannin-rich shrub in diets of growing goats, improved feed intake and feed conversion ratio, and consequently increased growth rates.

Keywords: *Growing goat, productivity, feed conversion ratio, supplementation, tannin*