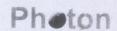
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Improvement in nutrient utilization in Deccani rams fed with coarse cereal crop residue as basal diet by polyherbal supplements

D.B. /. Ramana^{a*}, A. Vijay Kumar^a, D. Sudheer^a, S. Maini^b

a Contral Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture, Santoshnagar, Hyderabad-500 059, India B R&D Team Ayurvet Limited, Baddi, HP, India

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Cc € ponding Author:

Ra a a D.B.V.* Se o Scientist

Err il damarla97@gmail.com

Ph +919959968192

Kuma A.V. Scien st

Suchear D. Scin st

Ma 13.

Ass sont Manager

Errail clinical@ayurvet.in, shivi@ayurvet.in

Phone +919418033886

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Most of the nutrients available in the feed of the ann is remain unutilized and goes waste. A study was conducted to evaluate the efficacy of

1. 1 oduction

Shaco occupy a significant niche in the rural economy of India due to their inherent qualities of a ly maturity, ability to thrive even under has environment, low capital investment, etc. And acts as an insurance against crop failure and provides alternative source of live i ood to the farmers all the year round (Saxam et al., 2002). These animals mostly the natural pastures and coarse ce 3 crop residues. The forage supply from na all pasture is scarce, besides low dic a libility and poor availability of protein, mi ε als and vitamins (Samanta et al., 2003). The eed resources available for animals after gran harvest are usually fibrous and devoid of mes assential nutrients which are required for im r ved microbial fermentation and improved pe'c mance of host animal (Dixon et al.,

polyherbal formulations to improve the utilization of nutrients available in feed. 24 Deccani rams (198 ± 11.2 days of age and 21.2 ± 0.04 kg body weight) were assigned randomly to four treatments groups. T_1 no poly-herbal supplement (NPHS; n = 6), T_2 with poly-herbal supplement - Ruchamax (PHS1; n = 6), T₃ with poly-herbal supplement - AV/RMF/17 (PHS2; n = 6) and T₄ with poly-herbal supplement -AV/ADC/16 (PHS3; T_4 n = 6) and T_2 , T_3 and T_4 group animals received 5 g of the test drug respectively daily for 21 days. Significantly better results in terms of DMI, Nutrient digestibility, increased body weight, FCR and Total volatile fatty acids was observed in polyherbal supplemented groups T2, T3, T4 as compared to T1. It is concluded that, poly-herbal supplements would help in efficient utilization of available nutrients in coarse cereal crop residues by optimally modulating rumen kinetics and VFA production in Deccani rams and thus performance of the animals as these nutrients can be utilized for improving the production.

Citation

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1987). This manifests in loss of body weight and condition, reduced reproduction capacity and increased morbidity and mortality rate (Ajayi et al., 2005). Attempts were made to improve nutrient utilization from these coarse cereal crop residues by various means-supplementation of poly-herbal tonics and rumen modulators is one of them.

Enzymes and antibiotics in feed are widely used in intensive livestock production systems in developed societies to improve the digestibility of feeds and utilization of nutrients, are not available to many resource-poor farmers in developing countries like India (Ebiamadon et al., 2009). These synthetic supplements are often beyond the purchasing capacity of many resource-poor farmers, who