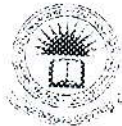


**NON-CONVENTIONAL FEEDS FOR RUMINANTS IN
CHENKALADY VETERINARY REGION**



BY

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ABSTRACT

Feed is the most significant factor to determine the livestock production in any country. The availability of feeds depend on the climatic and environmental condition of the area. To maximize the utilization of feeds, farmers should know about the available feed resources in their area.

In this context, a study was undertaken for identification, categorization and proximate analysis of non-conventional feed resources in Chenkalady veterinary region from January 2019 to May 2019. One hundred and twenty ruminant farmers were selected in Chenkalady veterinary region using random sampling method. Respondents were randomly selected based on usage of non-conventional feeds for their ruminants. Randomly selected farmers were interviewed in each area by using structured questionnaires. Before commencement of data collection, the questionnaire were pretested, to know the possibility of the prepared questionnaires and changes were made to enable easy recording of responses from farmers and to include all necessary information involved in non-conventional feeds.

The primary data such as socio-economic, educational level, family size, civil status, age of farmers, income level, likewise status of non-conventional feed information such as feed availability, types of non-conventional feeds were collected through personal interviews using questionnaires. Proximate composition of feeds were gathered from the proximate analysis of selected feed samples. From selected farmers 75.8% male, 24.2% female, 10% single and 90% married. There were 1.7% Sinhala, 2.5% Muslim and 95.8% Tamil ruminant farmers in the study. Average age group of the ruminant farmers in the study was 39-41 years and 93.4% of the ruminant farmers have studied up to primary and secondary educational levels. Average family size was

3-4 family members. There were 43.3% of farmers, 20% of labours, 24.2% of businessman and 12.5% job holders. Average monthly income of the ruminant farmers was recorded between Rs.29,000-30,000.

Average years of experience in ruminant farming was varies between 7-10 years. Only 5% of farmers using hired labours for ruminant farming. Overall 65% of farmers farming large ruminants and 35% of them farming small ruminants. As rearing systems 33.3% use extensive type, 30.8% use intensive type, 29.2% use semi-intensive type and 6.7% use tethering type for their ruminants. All the farmers use grass, 10% of farmers using silage and 20% of farmers using commercial feeds as conventional feeds.

The result of this study revealed there are main five categories of non-conventional feed resources were identified. Fruit and vegetable waste, paddy waste, other cereal waste, animal industry waste and tree leaves. In Chenkalady veterinary region 93.33%, 88.33%, 61.66%, 39.83% and 90.83% were fruit and vegetable waste, paddy waste, other cereal waste, livestock waste and tree leaves respectively.

Proximate analysis results revealed cassava leaves, ipil ipil leaves and fish meal are the best non-conventional feeds that contain all the nutrients in average amounts.

Major constraints regarding non-conventional feeds in Chenkalady veterinary region are most of the farmers can't specify these are conventional, these are non-conventional feeds due to lack of knowledge and awareness about feeds. And there are lack of storage facilities in farmer fields to store non-conventional feeds. Cultural and religious aspects also affecting the usage of non-conventional feeds for ruminants in Chenkalady veterinary region.

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