PERFORMANCE EVALUATION OF WEST AFRICAN DWARF GOAT FED 'KAU' (LOCAL POTASH) – CONTAINING DIETS

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ABSTRACT

A trial was conducted for 12 weeks to assess the use of 'kau' (local potash) as a potential source of minerals for West African Dwarf goat. The trial involved the use of milled 'Kau' (about 0.2 – 0.02mm particle size) mixed with formulated concentrate diet, (Pito mash: 25% Palm kernel cake: 25% and wheat bran: 50%) at four levels of 'kau' inclusion (0,4, 8 and 12g 'kau'/animal/day), using mineral lick as control (zero 'kau'). Tweleve (12) West African Dwarf billy goats, weighing between 9 and 10kg were used, grouped into dietary treatments of three goats per treatment, balanced for body weight. Each of the 4 groups was randomly assigned to a level of 'kau' and fed for 12 weeks. The zero-'kau' group was supplied mineral lick. Results indicate an increasing body weight as 'kau' inclusion increased in the diet up to 8g'kau/animal/d (23.8g/d) and then declined towards 12g 'kau'/animal/d (16.7g/d). The control group exhibited significantly ($P<0.05$) slowest growth rate (8.3g/d) while 8g'kau'/animal/d remarkably ($P<0.05$) encouraged average daily gain (23.8g/d) and feed conversion ratio (1.39) in goats. It is suggested, from the results of this trial, that administering 'kau' to growing goats through their diet as a source of mineral has beneficial effects on the performance of the animals. Therefore, 8g'kau'/animal/d is recommended in the concentrate diet of growing goats.

Keywords: *'kau', mineral, performance, Dwarf goat*