

## **Level of Utilization of Common Feeds and Feedstuffs by the Farmed Cane rat (*Thryonomys swinderianus* Temminck, 1827) in Oyo State, Nigeria**

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### **Abstract**

The study investigated the level of utilization of the available feeds and feedstuffs commonly utilized by farmed cane rat in Oyo State, Nigeria. Reconnaissance survey earlier carried out to determine the numbers and locations of cane rat farms was followed by on-site farm assessments during wet season (April to October 2004) and dry season (December to February 2005). Three feeds (*Pennisetum purpureum*, *Panicum maximum* and *Zea mays*) and one feedstuff (Self compounded concentrate) are commonly utilized during wet season while two feeds (*Pennisetum purpureum* and *Panicum maximum*) and five feedstuffs (Dry maize grain, Palm kernel cake, Self compounded concentrate, Ready-made concentrate and Purchased wheat offal) are commonly utilized during dry season due to scarcity of the feeds. *Pennisetum purpureum* had the highest (42.67% and 44.29%) level of utilization during wet and dry season respectively while *Panicum maximum* and *Zea mays* had the least (14.67%). Self compounded concentrate had level of utilization of (25.71%) while palm kernel cake had the least (1.43%) of the feedstuffs commonly available to farmed cane rat during dry season. The chemical

composition of all the common feeds and feedstuffs in all the identified thirty-five (35) cane rat farms for both season were determine by proximate. The result shows that all the three feeds collected during wet season had the highest percentage of moisture content and crude fibre while feedstuffs had the highest percentage of dry matter, crude protein, ether extract and Nitrogen free extract for both season. The study recommends the establishment of feeds resources farm near cane rat farm to cater for feeds scarcity most especially during dry season while further studies should investigate to ascertaining the seasonal nutritional needs and requirement of the farmed cane rat at various stages of development for better feeds and feedstuff conversion.

**Keywords:**

Utilization, feeds and feedstuffs, farmed cane rat