EFFECT OF PRO-VITAMIN A CASSAVA (UMUCASS 36) ON THE HAEMATOLOGICAL AND SERUM BIOCHEMISTRY OF FINISHING BROILER CHICKENS

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ABSTRACT

A 4-week study was conducted using 120 unsexed Anak broilers to determine the effect of unpeeled and peeled fermented pro-vitamin A cassava meal (UMUCASS 36) on the haematological and serum biochemical indices of finishing broilers chickens. Fresh pro - vitamin A cassava was harvested and divided into two batches. The first batch was unpeeled and the second one was peeled. Both were soaked separately in a plastic vat with clean water and allowed to ferment for 72 hours. Thereafter, they were washed with clean water, sundried and milled to produce;(i)unpeeled fermented pro - vitamin A cassava meal (UFPC), (ii) Peeled fermented pro vitamin A cassava meal (PFPC). Three diet were formulated such that diet 1 contained maize as source of energy, diets 2 and 3 contained unpeeled pro-vitamin A cassava meal and peeled pro-vitamin A cassava meal as source of energy. The birds were divided into three groups of 40 birds and each group was randomly assigned to one of the diets. Each group was further replicated in a completely randomized design (CRD). Feed and water were provided ad libitum. All the haematological parameters determined in the study were not significantly (P>0.05) affected by the diet. The RBC values of the control were slightly higher than the UFPC and PFPC group. The serum biochemical analyzed in the study followed the same trend with slight increase in values for total protein. It was concluded that unpeeled and peeled fermented pro-cassava A cassava meal could be fed to finishing broiler chicken without any negative effect on the haematology and serum biochemical parameters of broilers.

Keywords: Broilers , pro vitamin A cassava, Haematology, and Serum biochemistry.