

ASSESSMENT OF PERFORMANCE, CARCASS AND COST BENEFIT OF GROWER PIGS FED SUNDRIED UNRIPE BANANA DURING (*MUSA ACUMINATA*)

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ABSTRACT

A sixty-day feeding trial was conducted to evaluate the effect of graded sundried unripe banana meal (*musa acuminata*) in growing pigs' diets. Forty-eight pigs at twelve week of age were used for the experiment. Four experimental diets were formulated to incorporate sundried unripe banana meal as maize substitute at 0%, 10%, 20% and 30% to form T₁, T₂, T₃, and T₄ respectively. The experimental pigs were divided into four groups of twelve pigs. Each group was assigned to one of the treatment diet in completely randomized design. Each group was further divided into three replicates of four pigs each. Feed and water were provided ad libitum and data collected were statistically analyzed. The results of growth performance of the experimented pigs indicated significant ($p < 0.05$) difference across treatment groups. The feed intake of pigs across treatment groups was statistically similar. The best feed conversion ratio and efficiency were observed in 30% group. Live weight, dressed weight, dressing %, cut-parts (ham, hand and shoulder, hind legs and trotter) and internal organs (liver, kidney, heart and spleen) indicated significant ($P < 0.05$) differences in their values. Feed cost, average cost of feeding, total feed cost were significantly ($P < 0.05$) affected by the diet. There were significant ($P < 0.05$) reductions in their values as the level of sundried unripe plantain meal increased in the pigs diets. The lowest feed cost per kg weight gain was recorded in 30% group. The result of this study showed that sundried unripe banana meal could replace maize effectively up to 30% level of supplementation in growing pigs diet without any adverse effect on the performance, carcass and organs of the pigs and also provide the lowest cost of feed per kg weight gain.

Keywords: Unripe banana, Pigs, Cost Benefit, and Carcass.