ABSTRACT

Present experiment was conducted on eighteen Black Bengal weaned male growing kids of about 4 months of age were randomly assigned to three treatment groups (T<sub>1</sub>, T<sub>2</sub> and T<sub>3</sub>) in equal number. Group T<sub>1</sub> served as control having conventional feed ingredients while fodder beet was incorporated at 50 percent and 100 percent (w/w) in groups T<sub>2</sub> and T<sub>3</sub>, respectively, replacing maize. Feeding trial continued for 90 days period followed by a metabolic trial adopting standard procedures. Body weight of all the kids was recorded at fortnightly intervals. Digestibility of nutrients, average plane of nutrition, balance of nitrogen, calcium and phosphorus, feed conversion efficiency and economics of feeding were recorded.

The total consumption of feed was found non-significant among three groups. The digestibility co-efficient of various organic nutrients such as DM, CP, EE, CF and NFE did not differ significantly among the three groups. This also indicated that fodder beet had no adverse effect on the digestibility of various organic nutrients on the different diets.

The balances of nitrogen, calcium and phosphorus were found to be highly positive in respect of all three groups.

Key Words: Black Bengal goat, growth rate, fodder beet, semi-intensive condition