

Haematological and Internal Organs Characteristics of Rabbit Bucks Fed Boiled Pigeon Pea (*Cajanus Cajan*) Seed Meal

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Abstract : An experiment was conducted to determine the growth performance, blood parameters and reproductive characteristics of 8-week old male weaner rabbits fed 20% boiled pigeon pea seed meal (PPSM). The study lasted for 16 weeks. Results showed that haematological parameters of the two groups of rabbit bucks were not significantly affected ($P>0.05$) by the treatment, meaning that the PPSM was adequate for maintaining the blood parameters at the normal levels. The 20% boiled PPSM significantly affected ($P<0.05$) serum Alanine Aminotransferase (ALT) (67.72 ± 2.5 I.U/I) more than the ALT (57.50 ± 2.02 I.U/I) of the control, which is an indication of liver problem. The globulin level (3.00 ± 0.23 g/d) of the 20% boiled PPSM group was significantly higher than that of the control (2.60 ± 0.06 g/dl), indicating that the test diet did not alter protein metabolism in the rabbits. Boiled pigeon pea seed meal supported organ weight and testicular development in rabbit bucks, suggesting that boiling reduced the level of the anti-nutritional factors in pigeon pea seed meal. Thus, 20% boiled pigeon pea can be included in diets of rabbits without adverse effect on blood parameters and internal organs characteristics.

Keywords : haematology, internal organs, pigeon pea, rabbits, serum biochemistry

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