

## The Use of Ensiled Sweet Potato Vines as Feed for Growing Rabbits

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**Abstract :** A total of 60 crossbred weaned rabbits with an average initial body weight of  $650 \pm 2.00$  g were used to study the effects of dietary inclusion of graded levels of Ensiled sweet potato vines (ESPV) based diets on growth performance. Four experimental diets were formulated such that ESPV was included at the graded levels of 0, 10, 20 and 30 % in diets 1, 2, 3 and 4 respectively. The rabbits were randomly assigned into 4 treatments with 15 rabbits per treatment; each treatment was replicated thrice (5 rabbits per replicate) in a completely randomised design. The rabbits were managed based on standard experimental procedures. Feed and water were given ad libitum. Results of growth performance were not significantly different ( $p > 0.05$ ) for final weight, total weight gain, total feed intake, feed conversion ratio and mortality. Carcass characteristics were not significantly ( $p > 0.05$ ) affected by the treatments. The economics of production showed that diet with 30 % ESPV had the least cost/kg diets. It was concluded that ESPV can be included up to 30 % in growing rabbit diets without adverse effect on their performance, blood indices and cost of production.

**Keywords :** ensiled, sweet potato vines, performance, rabbits, *Oryctolagus cuniculus*

**Conference Title :** ICAS 2018 : International Conference on Animal Sciences

**Conference Location :** San Francisco, United States

**Conference Dates :** June 06-07, 2018