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Effects of feeding of concentrate mixtures comprising crushed and entire dried *Prosopis juliflora* pods on the performance of arid goats

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The experiment was undertaken to assess the performance of arid goats fed on concentrate mixtures having different forms of *Prosopis juliflora* dried pods. Eighteen growing goats (Marwari and Parbatsari) were divided into three groups, having six in each group based on their body weight and genetic make-up. The roughage was offered ad libitum in weighed quantity, which was similar to all the animals of three groups. However, the concentrate mixture was standard for the goats of control group (T0), whereas, 50 percent dried ground *P. juliflora* pods in T1 and 50 percent as such (non-grinded) dried *P. juliflora* pods in T2 were included by replacing the standard concentrate mixture. Animals of all the three groups received iso-nitrogenous and calorific ration. The observations were recorded for a period of fourteen fortnights. The average body weight gain of the animals was 11.7, 9.7 and 9.7 kg in T0, T1 and T2, respectively. Average daily dry matter intake (DMI)/100 kg body weight was 4.53, 4.68 and 4.79 kg in T0, T1 and T2 groups, respectively. The animals in all the three groups lost their body condition and the average change in body condition score (5 point score) was -0.17, -0.25 and -0.50 unit in T0, T1 and T2, respectively. The goats in all the groups exhibited normal heat signs in the breeding season. Five goats from each group were bred which became pregnant and delivered kids normally. The number of seeds per kg of feces voided in goats of T2 was 136. None of the animals among all the groups was found suffering from any problem related with chewing the cud and facial muscle. The results revealed that long term feeding of concentrate mixtures containing 50 percent crushed and entire P. juliflora pods to goats did not affect reproduction and cud chewing, however, animals lost their body condition.

Biography

Ajayvir Sirohi has completed his Masters and PhD in Livestock Production Management discipline from Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar, India. He is having 11 years of teaching and research experience and presently working as Senior Scientist at Central Institute for Research on Cattle, Meerut Cantt, India. He has published more than 20 research papers in reputed national and international journals. He has been a member of the research team of NAIP subproject entitled Value chain on value added products derived from *Prosopis juliflora* which received appreciation award from ICAR in 2012.

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