

GROWTH PERFORMANCE AND HAEMATOLOGICAL PROFILE OF GROWING JAPANESE QUAILS FED GRADED LEVELS OF *Moringa oleifera* LEAF MEAL

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Executive Summary

Animal protein security in Bangladesh is highly deficient with the protein consumption per head of an adult. To increase the protein supply for human consumption, diversified poultry production was required. The Japanese quails (*Coturnix japonica*) have the potential to serve as an excellent and cheap source of animal protein. The performance and haematological profile of Japanese quails fed graded levels of *Moringa oleifera* leaf meal was determined. Four treatments: T₁% (feed with zero supplementation of *Moringa Oleifera* leaf meal), T₂% (feed with 5% supplementation of *Moringa oleifera* leaf meal), T₃% (feed with 10% supplementation of *Moringa oleifera* leaf meal) and T₄% (feed with 15% supplementation of *Moringa oleifera* leaf meal), respectively were utilized in a completely randomized design (CRD). Three weeks age of 120 unsexed grower Japanese quails were used in this study. At the end of the 35-day study, the quails were decapitated and a set of 2ml blood samples taken from 3 quails per treatment into plastic tubes containing the anti-coagulant ethylene diamine tetra acetic acid (EDTA) for the determination of PCV, Hb, RBC, WBC, MCHC, MCH and MCV). Results revealed that quails of the T₂ group showed similar growth performance with their T₁% counterparts. Similarly, quails of the T₂% group showed superior haematological values in PCV, RBC and Hb. The major benefit of incorporating leaf meal as shown in the T₂%, T₃% and T₄% groups was the zero mortality as compared to their T₁% counterparts due to its non-deleterious effect. Therefore, incorporating leaf meals especially at the T₂% may improve the profitability of quail farmers. This study indicates that moringa supplementation in quail diets are not deleterious. Hence supplementing quail diets at 5% supplemental rate is recommended to quail farmers.

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