

Growth Performance of Khari Goats on Supplementation of Urea Molasses Mineral Block (UMMB) in Fodder Based Diets

M.R. Tiwari¹, B.K. Shrestha², P. Mandal³ and L.N. Panday³

¹National Animal Science Research Institute
Khumaltar, Lalitpur

²Animal Nutrition Division
Khumaltar, Lalitpur

³Sheep and Goat Research Programme
Guthichaur, Jumla

e-mail: tiwari65@yahoo.com

Abstract

Goat is important component of Nepalese farming system. Goat production and productivity in Nepal is not as their potential. One of the major factors causing low production and productivity of goats is lack of minerals in the diet. Therefore, to evaluate the mineral factor associated with low production and productivity of goats an experiment was carried out in growing male goats at Agriculture Research Station (Goat), Bandipur, Tanahun from February to March 2010. Ten male goats of 8-9 months of age and similar body weight were divided into two treatment groups having five animals in each group by using complete randomized design (CRD). Two types of diets were formulated for experimental animals. The animals of control group (treatment 1) were provided seasonal fodder *ad libitum* plus concentrate mixture @ 1% of the body weight, whereas animals of treatment 2 were provided seasonal fodder and concentrate mixture same as in treatment 1 plus UMMB @ 4% of the body weight. The study revealed that seasonal fodder and concentrate mixture intake of both groups was almost similar 2.0 kg and 207g, respectively and was not significantly difference in intake between diet groups. Similarly, total dry matter intake also was non-significant between diet groups. The highest body weight gain was observed in treatment 2 (3.86 ± 0.78 kg) than that of treatment 1 (3.3 ± 0.90 kg). Body weight gain of the experimental animals was also found non-significant. Average daily gain (ADG) was recorded the highest in treatment 2 (85.77 g/day) in comparison to treatment 1 (73.33 g/day).

Key word: feeding trial, feed intake, urea molasses mineral block and body weight gain

Introduction

Goats are important component of Nepalese livestock, reared by small and marginal farmers. Goat population of Nepal is estimated to be 8.84 million and producing 50315 mt meats per year (CBS 2010). Out of 8.84 million populations, Khari goat is the principle breed for population, and around 56 percent comes to this breed. This breed possesses better twinning ability among others. Furthermore, age at puberty and kidding interval of the Khari goat are comparatively shorter than any other indigenous goats (Pokharel & Neopane 2006).

Goat production and productivity in Nepal is not as their potential. Several factors are responsible for low production and productivity of goats. One of the major factors is lack of minerals in the diet. However, mineral factor associated with production and productivity has not been properly addressed yet.

Urea-Molasses Mineral Blocks (UMMB) provides nitrogen over a longer period of time than any other urea sources. Molasses is a source of readily fermentable energy. Feeding UMMB can improve the utilization of roughages by satisfying the requirement

of the rumen microorganisms creating a better environment for the fermentation of fibrous material and increasing production of microbial protein and volatile fatty acids. Urea is a product that after hydrolyzing into ammonia in the rumen can be used as a nitrogen source by the microbes (Anon 2008). The aim of the UMMB supplementation is to improve the utilization of low quality roughages, especially during dry season, when livestock are often solely dependent on crop residues or low quality dry season grazing, which are both low in crude protein and high in fibre. By considering, the mineral factor associated with low production and productivity of goats this experiment was initiated to evaluate the growth performance of growing goats supplemented with UMMB in fodder based diets.

Table 1. Experimental diet of the animal

S/n	Treatment	Experimental diet
1	Treatment 1 (Control)	Seasonal fodder (<i>ad libitum</i>) + concentrate mixture @ 1% of body weight
2	Treatment 2	Seasonal fodder (<i>ad libitum</i>) + concentrate mixture @ 1% of body weight + UMMB @ 4% of body weight

Feeding regime

Seasonal fodder was provided to the goats individually thrice a day (morning, afternoon & evening). Concentrate mixture and UMMB was mixed thoroughly and provided individually in plastic vessel once a day in the morning. Rate of concentrate mixture and UMMB was corrected fortnightly according to the body weight. Quantity of seasonal fodder and concentrate mixture given daily to the goats was weighed and refusal was weighed in the next morning. Drinking water was provided thrice a day in adequate amount. The concentrate mixture was used made by Pancharatna Feed Industry, Chitwan, whereas UMMB was used prepared by Animal Nutrition Division, Khumaltar, Lalitpur. The composition of UMMB was as given in Table 2.

Table 2. Composition of UMMB

Ingredient	Percentage
Urea	10
Molasses	32
Rice bran	36
Mineral	6
Salt	5
Cement	5
Calci oxide (choon)	6
Total	100

Methodology

Experimental animals

This experiment was carried out in growing male goats at Agriculture Research Station (Goat), Bandipur, Tanahun from February to March 2010. Ten goats of average 8-9 months of age and similar body weight were divided into two treatment groups having five animals in each group by using a complete randomized design (CRD). They were drenched against internal parasites, vaccinated against infectious diseases, and were kept individually in wooden cage of 1 x 1 x 0.4 m.

Experimental diets

The dry matter requirement of goats was calculated based on 4 kg per 100 kg body weight. Following diets were formulated to the experimental animals (Table 1).

Chemical analysis

The samples of seasonal fodder, concentrate mixture and UMMB was sent to the Animal Nutrition Division, Khumaltar, Lalitpur for proximate and detergent analysis. Representative samples were analyzed for dry matter (DM), crude protein (CP), crude fibre (CF), ether extract (EE) and total ash contents (TA). The DM was determined by oven drying at 100°C for 24 hrs. Crude protein of the samples was determined using the Kjeldahl method. Ether extract was determined using Soxhlet apparatus. Total ash content was determined by ashing at 550°C in a muffle furnace for 16 hrs (AOAC 1980). Crude fibre of the samples was determined using the Van Soest method (Goering, & Van Soest 1970).

Chemical composition of feedstuffs

The result of chemical analysis is given in Table 3

Measurement recording

The trial period consisted 45 days after an adaptation period of 7 days. Total feed intake by the animals was recorded daily for the experimental period. The body weight gain of individual animal was taken at 15 days interval in the morning before feeding.

Data analysis

Data of feed intake and body weight gain were analyzed by “t” test for every measurement using statistical package Minitab 2003, versions 13.20.

Results and Discussion**Feed intake**

Average daily intake of seasonal fodder, concentrate mixture and UMMB by experimental animals is given in Table 4.

Table 3. Chemical composition of different feedstuffs (% on DM basis)

Ingredients	DM	OM	TA	CP	CF	Ca
Seasonal fodder	36.17	81.72	18.28	5.81	20.24	2.19
Concentrate mixture	85.96	88.87	11.13	16.13	11.49	NA
UMMB	85.63	NA	NA	32.38	5.42	5.91

DM= dry matter, OM = organic matter, TA = total ash, CP = crude protein, CF = crude fibre and Ca = calcium

Table 4. Feed intake of experimental animal/day

Feedstuffs	(Mean \pm SD)	
	Treatment 1	Treatment 2
Seasonal fodder (kg)	2.14 \pm 3.49	2.23 \pm 2.77
Concentrate mixture, g	207.25 \pm 0.04	207.38 \pm 0.11
UMMB, g	-	72.3 \pm 0.02
Total DMI / animal, kg	42.67 \pm 1.27	47.09 \pm 1.05

Average seasonal fodder intake of experimental animals per day was recorded 2.14 \pm 3.49 kg and 2.23 \pm 2.77 kg for treatment 1 and 2, respectively, whereas intake of concentrate mixture was 207.25 \pm 0.04 g and 207.38 \pm 0.11g, respectively. However, intake of seasonal fodder and concentrate mixture by animals was not significantly different between diet groups. The UMMB intake of experimental animals (treatment

2) was 72.3 \pm 0.02 g / day. In case of total DMI, treatment 2 consumed more DM (47.09 \pm 1.05 kg) than that of treatment 1 (42.67 \pm 1.27 kg); however, it did not significantly differ between diet groups.

Growth performance

The growth performance of experimental animals is given in Table 5 and Figure 1.

Table 5. Growth performance of goats

Parameter	(Mean \pm SD)	
	Treatment 1	Treatment 2
Initial body weight (kg)	17.0 \pm 1.45	16.8 \pm 2.65
Initial metabolic weight (kg)	8.37	8.29
Final body weight (kg)	20.3 \pm 1.44	20.66 \pm 2.89
Final metabolic weight (kg)	9.56	9.69
Total weight, gain (kg)	3.3 \pm 0.90	3.86 \pm 0.78
Changes in metabolic weight (kg)	1.19	1.4
Average daily gain (g)	73.33	85.77
Feed Conversion Ratio (FCR) (kg)	12.93:1	12.19:1

The average initial body weight of experimental animals were 17.0 \pm 1.45 kg and 16.8 \pm 2.65 kg and reached 20.3 \pm 1.44 kg and 20.66 \pm 2.89 kg, respectively for treatment 1 and 2 by the end of the experiment (45 days), however, initial and final body weights of goats was not differed significantly between diet groups. Highest body

weight gain was observed in treatment 2 (3.86 \pm 0.78 kg) than that of treatment 1 (3.3 \pm 0.90 kg). Average daily gain (ADG) was recorded highest in treatment 2 (85.77 g /day) in comparison to treatment 1 (73.33 g /day). The feed conversion ratio (FCR) was higher for treatment 1 (12.93:1 kg) while for treatment 2 it was 12.19:1 kg.

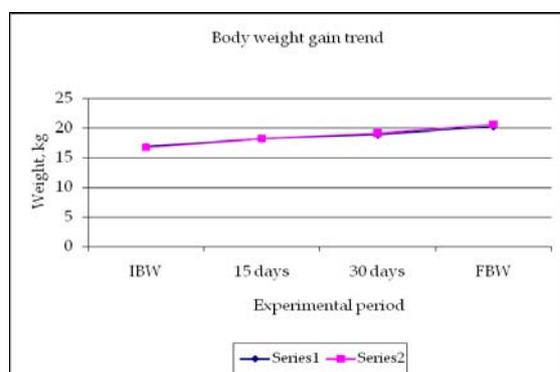


Fig.1. Growth performance of goats

The result of the study revealed that fodder and concentrate mixture intake of UMMB supplemented and non-supplemented group was almost 2.0 kg and 207 g, respectively that was not significantly different between diet groups. Likewise, total DMI of both groups also was found non-significant. The highest body weight gain during 45 days of trial period was observed in treatment 2 (3.86 kg) than that of treatment 1 (3.3 kg) which was also found to be non-significant between diet groups. Average daily gain (ADG) was recorded highest in treatment 2 (85.77 g/day) supplemented with UMMB in comparison to treatment 1 (73.33 g/day).

Vargas and Riviera (1994) studied growth performance of growing sheep and showed that the provision of multi-nutritional block (10% urea, 50% molasses) *ad libitum* drastically reduced mortality in both ewes and lambs of African Hair breed. Furthermore, they reported that feeding of UMMB to ewes initiated early ovarian activity and shortened the interval from parturition to conception. Smallholder goat farmers can thus be encouraged to use UMMB for better animal performance

This experiment revealed that supplementation of UMMB in fodder-based diet of growing goats did not result significant effect on total DMI and growth performance between diet groups. Therefore, it is concluded that green

fodder have sufficient minerals which can meet the animal requirement, however, it is suggested that similar type of experiments should be conducted on pregnant as well as lactating does to evaluate the effect of minerals on reproductive performance.

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