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SUGARCANE JUICE AS FEED SUPPLEMENT TO GROWING PIGS

The unstable price of sugar both in the world and local markets gave farmers and sugarcane planters no option but to shift to produce other commodities or to diversify. One possible venture that has attracted especially smallhold sugarcane planters is animal production. Opportunities led to the conversion of sugarcane to a high valued product such as meat by using sugarcane as animal feed supplement to growing pigs.

In other countries, a hectare of sugarcane field can easily sustain about 15 to 20 heads of cattle in a year's time (Preston, 1990). Furthermore, in Europe, the sugarcane juice has been tried with much success in monogastric animals.

Perez (1990) mentioned that sugarcane juice has been used by livestock raisers as feed supplement to growing pigs. She stated that after four months of feeding trial, pigs weighed 80 to 90 kg. liveweight.

Sansoucy, et al. (1992) emphasized that sugarcane product and by-products can be

used as animal feed that results to increase farmer's profit.

The feeding trial conducted by Buenafe (1991) showed that sugarcane juice when fed to swine increased weight gain and improved the economic status of the farmer.

Basal (1990) stated that the gain weight of swine on the first and third months were not significantly affected by protein sources used. However, on the second month, animals that were given feed containing soybean oil meal grew significantly faster than those containing other protein sources and their combinations.

Along this line, a study was conducted from August 1994 to February 1995 at Barangay Mabini, Pontevedra, Negros Occidental to determine the growth performance of swine supplemented with sugarcane product and by-products and to evaluate the economic importance of feeding trial.

There were 12 weanling piglets used in the study with four trials namely: Trial I - Sugarcane juice, Trial II - Sugarcane syrup, Trial III - Molasses and Trial IV - Sugar (Brown). Experimental animals were distributed randomly

among trials and analyzed statistically using descriptive statistics.

The results showed that average final weight were different among trials with 90.8 kg liveweight in Trial I followed by Trial II, Trial III and Trial IV having the kg. liveweight of 85.93, 79.97, and 75.73 respectively.

Considering the results, average feed efficiency, average ADB, average backfat, and average dressing percentage were different among trials. However, pigs feed with sugarcane juice results to highest total net income because of the highest average final weight of the swine with the Return of Investment (ROI) of 0.62.

Sugarcane juice can be utilized as feed supplement to growing pigs that increased the liveweight of the animals and resulted to increase in income of the farmers./glr

SOURCE:

F. D. Buenafe, F. A. Moog and D. B. Peña, Jr. 1996. Utilization of sugarcane product and by-products as feed supplement to growing pigs. Paper presented during the 1996 Visayas PSAS Convention, August 8-10, 1996, Villa Beach, Manduriao, Iloilo City.