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Trichantera gigantea feed supplement for swine



T*richantera gigantea*, a new fodder tree, is a non-leguminous species that grows well with repeated cuttings and even without fertilizer input. Its young leaves can be offered fresh to pigs and can replace about 20-30% of the required commercial diet.

WHAT IS TRICHANTERA GIGANTEA?

Trichantera gigantea, a fodder tree, also known as Nacedero or Madre de Agua. It was introduced into the country some years ago from Latin America (Columbia and Venezuela) and adapts well in local tropical conditions. It can be planted to a wide range of soil types and elevations up to 1800 meters above sea level. It can be planted at low density at 6,700 cuttings per hectare. It grows well easily between plantation crops and produces 40-60 tons per hectare

WHAT IS THE NUTRIENT CONTENT OF TRICHANTERA GIGANTEA?



The leaves of trichantera is a potential source of protein, varying from 18-22 in dry matter form and apparently most of this protein are true protein and has a good amino acid balance (Rosales, et.al, 1989)It has 2.8% Crude Fat, 13.4% Crude

Fiber, 19.7% Ash, and 37.0% NFE.

HOW IS TRICHANTERA GIGANTEAN PROPAGATED?

Propagation may be done through cuttings. The cuttings measuring 6-8 inches with 2 nodes are ideal as planting materials. Cuttings can be grown in a plastic bag (10 inches x 6 inches) and allowed to grow in three (3) months before it can be transplanted to the field. However, it can be directly planted to the prepared field.

HOW IS IT FED TO PIGS

Young leaves can be offered to the pigs in fresh form. It can also be processed into leaf meal and use of ingredients in mash.

HOW MUCH CAN BE FED TO PIGS AS PARTIAL REPLACEMENT FOR COMMERCIAL FEEDS?



Trichantera leaves can replace about 20-30% of the commercial diet of growing-finishing pigs. Six (6) kilograms of fresh leaves consumed by pigs per day is equivalent to 1 kg of mixed feeds saved.

CAN IT BE GIVEN TO OTHER ANIMALS ASIDE FROM PIGS?

Yes. It can be mixed to poultry diets (ducks, hens, quails, rabbits, and even to large (cattle and carabaos) and small ruminants (sheep and goats) feeds.

WHAT ARE THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS WHICH CAN BE OBTAINED FROM SUBSTITUTING TRICHANTERA LEAVES TO COMMERCIAL RATION?

Partial replacement of mixed feeds with Trichantera gigantea give almost the same results in terms of weight gain, meat quality and income with those pigs given sole mixed feeds.



DISCLAIMER

Trade names cited in this publication are used for the purpose of providing specific information and do not endorse products named nor imply criticism of similar ones not mentioned. The recommended practices or procedures are based on research and the best information available.

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