

NUTRITIONAL EVALUATION OF SUBSTITUTING *MORINGA OLEIFERA* LEAVES MEAL (MOLM) AS A SOURCE OF PROTEIN INSTEAD OF SOYBEAN MEAL IN DIETS OF GROWING RABBITS IN NORTH SINAI

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SUMMARY

The objective of this study was to evaluate the utilization of *Moringa oleifera* leaves meal (MOLM) as a source of protein in feeding growing rabbits. Thirty six weaned New Zealand white rabbits of both sexes aged 6 wk and weighted 858 g were randomly divided into three groups (12 each). Rabbits were fed ad-libitum diets containing 0, 7.5 and 15% MOLM for groups T0, T7.5 and T15, respectively as a substitute for soybean meal. Fresh water was supplied ad-libitum during the experimental period (8 wk). At the end of experimental period, digestibility trials were carried out to determine the digestibility of feed nutrients and the feeding values of experimental diets. Three rabbits from each group were slaughtered to evaluate carcass traits and some blood parameters. Results revealed that substituting MOLM instead of soybean meal in rabbit's diets did not significantly affect live body weight (LBW), daily weight gain (DWG) and total feed intake (TFI). Meanwhile, feed conversion ratio was significantly affected by inclusion of MOLM in the diet, however, control group (T0) recorded the best value (4.28) followed by 15% MOLM (4.43) while 7.5% MOLM reflected worst value (4.65). All nutrient digestibilities, except CF and nutrient values (TDN, DCP and DE) of experimental diets were significantly decreased with increasing MOLM level in the diet. All carcass traits were not affected by dietary treatments. There were no significant differences among dietary treatments in most blood constituents (total protein, bilirubin, cholesterol, urea-N, creatinine, ALT and AST). Glucose, albumin, globulin and Alb/Glob ratio were significantly affected by MOLM inclusion in the diet. Glucose was increased ($p < 0.05$) in rabbits fed MOLM diets compared to the control. Albumen and Alb/ Glo ratio were decreased ($p < 0.05$). However, globulin was increased in rabbits fed 7.5% MOLM compared to those fed MOLM-free diet or 15 % MOLM. All blood biochemical parameters were within the normal range for healthy rabbits. IgM and Anti-nuclear Antibody (ANA) were increased ($p < 0.05$) in MOLM diets compared with the control. Economic efficiency (E. E) and relative E. E (%) were increased by increasing MOLM level in the diets. It could be concluded that *Moringa oleifera* leaves meal can be used as a substitute of soybean meal as a source of protein in rabbit's diets without detrimental effects on productive performance, health status and economic efficiency.

Keywords: Rabbits, *Moringa oleifera* leave meal, productive performance, digestibility, carcass traits, blood parameters and economic efficiency.

INTRODUCTION

In Egypt, there is a large gap in animal protein between the demand and that available for human consumption. Moreover, the gap is increasing because the population is increasing more rapidly than the increase in production. However, gap could be decreased by rabbit farming (FAO, 1987). Rabbits are characterized by short generation interval, high reproductive rate and prolificacy, high feed efficiency and simple housing requirements (Daader *et al.*, 1999). In addition, rabbits have a high ability to feed on diets containing forages and fibrous by-products (Cheeke, 1986, Aboul-Ela *et al.*, 2011 and Bakr *et al.*, 2019).

Soybean meal is considered the main protein source in rabbit's diet. The price of soybean meal has been increasing continuously in recent years, especially after the discovery of mad cow disease in the last decade. Therefore, search for cheaper new plant protein source is urgent (Zeweil *et al.*, 2008).

Moringa oleifera leaves meal can be used to replace soybean meal in rabbit's diet up to 15% without any adverse effect on growth performance, hematology and blood biochemistry (Odetala *et al.*, 2012). *M.oleifera* leaves meal has a high protein content ranging from 20 to 33% on dry matter basis, Moreover, the protein is of a high quality. It has significant quantities of all the essential and non-essential amino

acids. Therefore, MOLM contains considerable levels of lysine and methionine (Foidl and Paull, 2008 and Abdel-Azeem *et al.*, 2017). *M. Oleifera* leaves meal also has considerable quantities of macro and microelements, especially iron and selenium and is considered to be an excellent source of many vitamins (A, B, C and E) and bio-active components (Abdel-Azeem *et al.* 2017). *M. Oleifera* leaves and fruits prevent morphological changes and oxidative damage in human and animals by enhancing the activities of antioxidant enzymes, reducing generation of free radicals (Sreelather and Padma, 2009 and Osman *et al.*, 2012). The presence of antioxidants in moringa leaves promotes the immune system of animals against infection (Yang *et al.*, 2006 and Jaiswall *et al.*, 2009). Bauotene *et al.* (2011) reported that supplementation of *M. Oleifera* leaf meal at 3% improved survival rate in growing rabbits.

The objective of the present study was to investigate the effect of varying levels of *Moringa oleifera* leaves meal as a substitute of soybean meal in rabbit's diets on growth performance and immunity of growing rabbits under North Sinai conditions.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was conducted in the rabbitry farm of the Department of Animal and Poultry Production, Faculty of Environmental Agriculture Sciences, Arish University, North Sinai, Egypt. The study lasted for 8 weeks starting January 1st till the end of February 2018.

Preparation of Moringa oleifera leaves meal (MOLM):

Moringa oleifera leaves (MOLM) were harvested at the age of 2 months in a private farm at Kafr Saqr District, Sharqia governorate, Egypt. The leaves were air dried under shade until their moisture content reached almost 10%. They were turned several times in order to retain their greenish coloration (about 72 hour). The dry leaves were then milled, sieved (1 mm mesh) and stored in a well tight polyethylene bags at room temperature until they were used. Samples of dry *Moringa oleifera* leaves meal (MOLM) were taken for chemical analysis. MOLM was analyzed for crude protein (CP), crude fiber (CF), ether extract (EE), ash, calcium (Ca) and phosphorus (P) according to A. O. A. C (2012).

Animals and the experimental design:

Thirty six newly weaned New Zealand White (NZW) unsexed (6 week's old and 858 g average body weight) were randomly allocated into three dietary treatment groups, each of 12 animals. Each group was sub-divided into four replicates with three animals each. The 1st treatment group (control, T0) was fed a pelleted control diet, the 2nd treatment group (T 7.5) and the 3rd treatment group (T 15) were fed diets containing 7.5 and 15% MOLM substituting 50 and 100% soybean meal, respectively (Table 1). MOLM was handily mixed with feed ingredients and the experimental diets were pelleted under a temperature of 70oC and 0.3 cm diameter and 2cm length. The experimental diets were formulated to meet the nutrients requirements of growing rabbits according to NRC (1994). The composition of the experimental diets is showed in Table (1). Rabbits were housed as three in galvanized wire cage (3/cage) measured (40*40*30 cm) in a well-ventilated building (natural air and light throw the window). Cages were provided with feeders and automatic nipple drinkers. The experimental diets and fresh water were supplied ad-libitum twice daily at 8.00 AM and 6.00 PM. All rabbits were kept under the same managerial, hygienic and environmental conditions. Individual body weight and feed intake were recorded weekly. Body weight gain and feed conversion ratio (g feed/ g gain) were estimated.

Digestibility trials:

At the end of the experimental period (14 wk of age), digestibility trials were carried out to estimate the nutrient's digestibility and feeding values of the experimental diets. Three male rabbits were chosen randomly from each group and housed individually in metabolism cages that allow for collection of feces. The same feeding regime used during the feeding trial was also used during the digestibility trial. A preliminary period of 10 days was followed by 7 days as a collection period for feces. Feed intake was recorded daily and the feces of each rabbit was collected daily in the morning. Any shaded hair or foreign materials were discarded. The feces were sprayed with 2% boric acid for trapping any ammonia released, then was dried at 60 oC for 36 hours. At the end of the collection period, all dried feces for each rabbit was mixed, grounded and stored until chemical analysis. Diets and feces were analyzed according to A. O. A. C (2012). The nutritive values of the experimental diets were estimated as digestible crude protein (DCP %), total digestible nutrients (TDN) and digestible energy (DE, Kcal/kg diet). Values of total digestible nutrients (TDN) were calculated according to the equation described by Cheeke *et al.* (1982) as follows:

$$\text{TDN\%} = \% \text{DCP} + \% \text{DCF} + \% \text{DNFE} + 2.25 (\% \text{DEE}).$$

Digestible energy (DE, Kcal/kg diet) was calculated according to the formula described by Schiemann *et al.* (1972), cited by El- Kerdawy (1997) as follows:

$$\text{DE (Kcal/kg diet)} = 5.28(\% \text{DCP, g/kg}) + 9.51 (\% \text{ DEE, g/kg}) + 4.2(\% \text{ DCF} + \% \text{ DNFE g/kg}) \pm 0.3$$

Table (1): Formulation (%) of the experimental diets.

Item	The experimental diet ¹		
	T0	T7.5	T15
Alfalfa hay (15%)	29	29	29
Soybean meal (44%)	15	7.5	-
<i>Moringa oleifera</i> leaves meal (MOLM)	-	7.5	15
Barley grains	15	15	15
Yellow corn	10	10	10
Wheat bran	26	26	26
Molasses	3	3	3
Salt	0.3	0.3	0.3
Limestone	0.9	0.9	0.9
Vitamins and mineral mixture ²	0.3	0.3	0.3
DL-Methionine	0.1	0.1	0.1
Di-Calcium phosphate	0.4	0.4	0.4
Total	100	100	100

¹Experimental diets; T0 = control diet, containing no MOLM; T 7.5 = diet containing 7.5 % MOLM; T15 = diet containing 15% MOLM.

² - Each 3 kg of premix contains: Vit. A 6000000 iu, Vit. D3 900000 iu, Vit. E 40000 mg, Vit k3 2000 mg, Vit. B1 2000 mg, Vit. B2 4000 mg, Vit. B6 2000 mg, Vit. B12 10mg, Biotin 50 mg, Pantothenic acid 10000 mg, Nicotinic acid 50000 mg, Folic acid 3000 mg, Choline chloride 250000 mg, Mg 8500 mg, Zinc 50000 mg, Iron 50000 mg, Copper 5000 mg, Iodine 200 mg, Selenium 100 mg and Cobalt 100 mg.

Blood sampling:

At slaughter, individual blood samples were collected in dry clean non-heparinized tubes (from the same slaughtered rabbits) and allowed to clot at room temperature and then centrifuged at 3000 rpm for 15 minutes and the serum was separated and stored at -20 oC until analysis. Serum total protein and glucose were calorimetrically determined using Kits supplied by Bio Merieux, France. Urea and creatinine calorimetrically determined using Kits supplied by Diamond, Egypt. Albumin, bilirubin, ALT and AST were calorimetrically determined using Kits supplied by Randox, England. Serum globulin was obtained by difference (Total protein minus albumin). Cholesterol was calorimetrically determined using Kits supplied by Spectrum, Egypt. Serum immunoglobulin profile (igG, igA and igM) and Anti-nuclear Antibody (ANA) were determined using ELISA technique.

Economic efficiency:

Economic efficiency was calculated as the ratio between incomes price of weight gain and the cost of feed consumed over 6-14 weeks of age.

Statistical analyses:

Data were subjected to statistical analysis by the SAS (2004) computer program using the general linear models (GLM). Significances among treatment means were tested using Duncan's multiple range test (Duncan, 1955).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Chemical Analysis of MOLM and Experimental diets:

Table (2) showed that the proximate chemical composition of MOLM was within the range values reported by pervious researchers (Ghada, 2015; Ahmed, 2017 and Omara *et al.*, 2017). The CF, NFE and ash values were nearly similar for the experimental diets. The CP content was decreased while EE content

was increased with increasing MOLM inclusion in the experimental diets (Table 2). This is due to the fact that CP content of MOLM (29.49%) is lower than that of soybean meal (44%) which is used as a source of protein in rabbit's diet. However, EE content of MOLM (7.24%) is higher than that of soybean meal (2.08), indicating that MOLM is a source of fats.

Growth performance :

No significant differences were observed among the three dietary treatments in live body weight (LBW) and daily weight gain (DWG) of growing rabbits during the experimental period (Table 3). Mean values of live body weight and daily weight gain were decreased slightly with increasing MOLM level in rabbit's diets. This may be due to low DCP% of MOLM diets (12.54 and 10.56%) for T 7.5 and T15 compared to 13.80% of the diet without MOLM (T 0). This result is in accordance with that of Odetola *et al.* (2012) who found that MOLM can be used to replace soybean meal up to 15 % substitute level in the rabbit's diet without adverse effect on the growth performance. These results can be explained as MOLM has better protein quality, possibly resulting from a higher methionine and lysine contents. Also, MOLM is rich in vitamin A which is important in rabbit growth. Pond *et al.*, (1995) reported that deficiency of vitamin A in rabbit's diet led to poor growth.

Total feed intake (kg/head) and feed conversion ratio are presented in Table (4). Total feed intake wasn't significantly ($p>0.05$) influenced by replacing MOLM with soybean meal in the rabbit's diets. However, the feed conversion ratio was significantly affected by the dietary treatments. The diet without MOLM (T 0) had the best value (4.28) and the diet with 7.5% MOLM inclusion (T 7.5) had the lowest value (4.65).

Nutrients digestibility and nutritive values of experimental diets:

Table (5) showed that all nutrients digestibility coefficients (except CF digestibility of 15% MOLM substitution) were significantly lower ($p<0.05$) than those of MOLM-free diet (control, T0). Meanwhile, no significant differences were found in all nutrients digestibility coefficients, except EE digestibility between the diet without MOLM (T 0) and 7.5% MOLM substitution. These results are in line with those obtained by Sun *et al.* (2018) who found that DM, CP and energy digestibility decreased when MOLM substitute levels were increased. This may be due to the presence of tannins in MOLM which have the ability to form complexes with macromolecules such as proteins and polysaccharides (De-Bruyne *et al.*, 1999 and Dei *et al.*, 2007). However, Ogbe and Affiku (2011) found that MOLM contains 21.19 % tannins.

As shown in Table (5), there are significant differences ($p<0.01$) in DCP% among the experimental diets. However, the control diet (T 0) had the highest value (13.80%) versus 12.54 and 10.56% for MOLM diets (T 7.5 and T 15), respectively. Similarly, Vidjannagni *et al.* (2018) found that DCP % of MOLM diets significantly decreased when MOLM substitute levels were increased in rabbit's diets. TDN % and DE (kcal / kg) of MOLM diet (T 15) were significantly ($p<0.05$) lower than those of the control diet (T 0), while no significant differences in TDN and DE (kcal/kg) were found between the control diet and MOLM diet (T 7.5). In the same trend, Sun *et al.* (2018) reported that the apparent digestible energy of the diet without MOLM was significantly higher ($p<0.05$) than those of 30% MOLM substitution.

Table (2): Proximate composition of MOLM and experimental diets.

Item	MOLM1	Experimental diets2		
		T 0	T 7.5	T 15
DM%	89	90.6	90.6	90.7
Composition of DM%				
OM	90.34	91.39	91.15	90.90
CP	29.49	17.77	16.41	15.21
CF	10.01	13.60	13.73	13.86
EE	7.24	3.32	3.69	4.02
NFE	43.60	56.7	57.32	57.81
Ash	9.66	8.61	8.85	9.10

1MOLM, *Moringa oleifera* leaves meals 2Experimental diets, T0 = Control, containing no MOLM; T7.5 = Containing 7.5% MOLM; T15= Containing 15% MOLM

Table (3): Live body weight and daily gain of growing rabbits as influenced by dietary treatment.

Item	Treatment ^{1,2}			S.E.3
	T0	T7.5	T15	
Live body weight (g)				
6 wk.	859	859	814	26
10 wk.	1606	1627	1517	62
14 wk.	2269	2162	2149	77
Daily weight gain (g)				
6-10 wk.	26.6	27.4	25.1	1.5
10-14 wk.	23.7 ^a	19.1 ^b	22.6 ^a	0.83
6-14 wk.	25.2	23.3	23.8	1.03

*1*Values are least-squares means. *2* Treatments, T0 = Control, containing no MOLM; T7.5 = Containing 7.5% MOLM; T15= Containing 15% MOLM.

*3*S.E.3 = Largest standard error of the means.

a, b Means in the same row with different superscripts differ ($P < 0.05$).

Table (4). Feed intake and feed conversion ratio as influenced by dietary treatments

Item	Treatment ^{1,2}			S.E.3
	T0	T7.5	T15	
Total feed intake (kg/head)				
6-10 wk.	2.55 ^a	2.70 ^b	2.54 ^a	0.013
10-14 wk.	3.49 ^a	3.35 ^b	3.55 ^a	0.024
6-14 wk.	6.05	6.05	6.10	0.035
Feed conversion ratio				
6-10 wk.	3.41	3.52	3.53	0.077
10-14 wk.	5.28 ^a	6.26 ^b	5.43 ^a	0.070
6-14 wk.	4.28 ^a	4.65 ^b	4.43 ^a	0.056

*1*Values are least-squares means. *2* Treatments, T0 = Control, containing no MOLM; T7.5 = Containing 7.5% MOLM; T15= Containing 15% MOLM.

*3*S.E.3 = Largest standard error of the means.

a, b Means in the same row with different superscripts differ ($P < 0.05$).

Table (5): Effect of dietary inclusion of varying levels of MOLM on apparent nutrients digestion coefficients and nutritive values of the experimental diets

Parameter	Treatment ¹			S. E2	Sig ³
	T 0	T 7.5	T 15		
Digestibility coefficient (%)					
DM	69.48 ^a	69.10 ^a	63.70 ^b	1.64	*
OM	71.51 ^a	70.81 ^{ab}	66.17 ^b	1.64	*
CP	77.69 ^a	76.41 ^a	69.44 ^b	1.73	**
EE	87.87 ^a	81.77 ^b	74.90 ^c	1.57	**
CF	27.23	32.18	26.50	2.78	
NFE	79.22 ^a	77.76 ^{ab}	74.23 ^b	1.55	*
Nutritive values (%)					
TDN	68.99 ^a	68.30 ^{ab}	63.91 ^b	1.56	*
DCP	13.80 ^a	12.54 ^b	10.56 ^c	0.29	**
DE(kcal/kg)	3048.47 ^a	3006.56 ^a	2800.73 ^b	68.03	*

*1*Treatments, T0 = Control, containing no MOLM;

*2*T7.5 = Containing 7.5% MOLM; T15= Containing 15% MOLM.

*3*S. E2 = Largest standard error of the means.

Sig³= significance level.

a, b and c Means in the same row with different superscripts differ.

*Significance at $p < 0.05$

** Significance at $p < 0.01$

Carcass traits:

Data in Table (6) showed no significant differences among dietary treatments in all carcass traits and internal organs. Liver, kidneys and heart appeared normal in size and did not show any signs of toxicity. These results are in agreement with those obtained by Dougnen et al, (2012) and Ahmed (2017).

Table (6). Effect of dietary treatments on carcass characteristics of rabbits.

Item	Treatment ^{1,2}			S.E. ³
	T0	T7.5	T15	
Pre-slaughter wt. (g)	2143	2193	2247	60
Empty carcass wt. (g)	1273	1337	1329	40
Total edible parts ⁴ (g)	1350	1419	1412	41
Goblets wt. ⁵ (g)	77.8	82.2	83.8	6.12
Head (g)	116.0	127.2	119.4	4.2
Liver (g)	59.2	62.4	64.4	5.6
Kidneys (g)	12.4	13.4	13.6	0.54
Heart (g)	6.2	6.4	5.8	0.42
Dressing %	63.07	64.76	62.85	0.64

*1*Values are least-squares means. *2*Treatments, T0 = Control, containing no MOLM; T7.5 = Containing 7.5% MOLM; T15= Containing 15% MOLM.

*3*S. E3 = Largest standard error of the means.

*4*Total edible parts weight = Empty carcass wt. (with head) + Goblets wt.

*5*Goblets wt. = Liver wt. + Kidneys wt. + Heart wt.

Blood constituents:

As shown in Table (7), glucose was increased significantly ($p < 0.05$) in MOLM diets (T 7.5 and T15) compared with that of MOLM-free diet (T 0). This may be due to MOLM having various phytochemical and bioactive components such as the trace metal ions, vitamins, alkaloids, carotenoids and polyphenols which enhance rabbit's health in the long term (Sravanthi and Rao, 2014). Albumin, globulin and Alb/Glo

Table (7). Serum biochemical parameters of rabbits as influenced by dietary treatments

Biochemical parameter	Treatment ^{1,2}			S.E. ³
	T0	T7.5	T15	
Glucose (mg/dl)	121 ^a	132 ^b	132 ^b	5.00
Total protein (g/dl)	6.17	6.17	6.03	0.14
Albumin (g/dl)	4.00 ^a	3.57 ^b	3.96 ^a	0.18
Globulin (g/dl)	2.17 ^a	2.60 ^b	2.07 ^a	0.17
Alb/Glo ratio	1.85 ^a	1.39 ^b	1.97 ^a	0.21
Bilirubin (mg/dl)	0.033	0.043	0.04	0.008
Cholesterol (mg/dl)	60.67	58.00	45.67	7.92
Urea nitrogen (mg/dl)	45.66	41.00	42.66	3.36
Creatinine (mg/dl)	0.913	0.883	0.923	0.049
ALT (U/L)	54.66	58.66	48.33	7.37
AST (U/L)	39.66	38.33	34.66	2.49

*1*Values are least-squares means. *2*Treatments, T0 = Control, containing no MOLM;

T7.5 = Containing 7.5% MOLM; T15= Containing 15% MOLM.

*3*S. E3 = Largest standard error of the means.

a and *b* Means in the same row with different superscripts differ ($P < 0.05$).

were significantly ($p < 0.05$) influenced by MOLM inclusion in the rabbit's diets. Albumin and Alb/Glo levels were lower. Meanwhile globulin was increased ($p < 0.05$) with rabbits fed 7.5% MOLM diet compared with those fed the control or 15% MOLM diet. However, total protein, bilirubin, cholesterol, urea-N, creatinine, ALT and AST weren't significantly influenced by the dietary treatments. These results are in line with those reported by Ahemen *et al.* (2013). Cholesterol level decreased ($p > 0.05$) with increasing MOLM inclusion in the diets. This may be due to the hypolipidemic effect of bioactive phyto-constituents such as alkaloids and saponins (Dong *et al.*, 2007). Ghasi *et al.* (2000) showed that the

mechanism of cholesterol reduction is due to lowering plasma concentrations of LDL by β -sitosterol, the bioactive phytoconstituent isolated from MOLM.

Serum biochemical parameters, except urea-N, in this study were within the normal range of healthy rabbits (Manning *et al.*, 1994). This explained that nutrients and dietary protein of MOLM were adequate and well utilized by rabbits. So, MOLM can be used up to 15 % as replacement for soybean meal in rabbit's diets without any adverse effect on growth performance of growing rabbits.

Immune response:

Results in Table (8) showed that IgG and IgA were not significantly affected by dietary treatments. Meanwhile, IgM was significantly affected by dietary treatments. However, IgM was significantly increased in rabbits fed MOLM diets compared with those fed the control diet. Anti-nuclear Antibody (ANA) was significantly increased by increasing MOLM inclusion in the diet. The ANA of rabbits fed 15% MOLM was higher ($p < 0.05$) than those fed 7.5% MOLM or the control diet. These results are in agreement with those of Badawi *et al.* (2017) and El-Gindy *et al.* (2017). This is could be due to the presence of considerable levels of antioxidants (Vit E and C, carotenoids and selenium) in MOLM (Klasing and Leshchinsky, 2000 and Gallois *et al.*, 2005).

Economic efficiency:

Total feed cost decreased with increasing MOLM substitute level in the rabbit's diets (Table 9). The low feeding cost of MOLM diets is due to the low price of MOLM which equals 4.2 LE/kg compared to 7.17 LE/kg soybean meals. In the time, total feed intake and total weight gain were nearly similar in the different dietary treatments. These results revealed that net revenue /rabbits (L.E), economic efficiency (E.E) and relative E.E (%) were higher in the 15% MOLM diet compared to control or 7.5% MOLM diets. These results are in agreement with those obtained by Abd-Allah (2017).

Table (8): Immune responses of rabbits as influenced by dietary treatments.

Constituent	Treatment1, 2			S. E3
	T 0	T 7.5	T 15	
IgG (mg/dl)	380	365.66	302.33	0.001
IgA (mg/dl)	0.10	0.067	0.100	0.013
IgM (mg/dl)	18.36 ^a	24.70 ^b	23.90 ^b	2.52
ANA	0.127 ^a	0.190 ^a	0.676 ^b	0.17

I Values are least-squares means. *2* Treatments, T0 = Control, containing no MOLM;

T7.5 = Containing 7.5% MOLM; T15= Containing 15% MOLM.

S. E3 = Largest standard error of the means.

a and *b* Means in the same row with different superscripts differ ($P < 0.05$).

Table (9): Economic efficiency as affected by *Moringa oleifera* leaves meal (MOLM) in rabbits' diet.

Item	Dietary Treatment*		
	T 0	T 7.5	T 15
Price/kg diet. (L.E)	4.42	4.20	3.98
Total feed intake/rabbit(g)	6005	6005	6010
Total feed cost/rabbit (L.E)	26.54	25.22	23.92
Total weight gain/rabbit(g)	1410	1303	1335
Feed cost/kg gain (L.E)	18.82	19.35	17.92
Price/kg weight gain (L.E)	32	32	32
Total revenue/weight gain(L.E)	45.12	41.70	42.72
Net revenue/rabbit (L.E)	18.58	16.48	18.80
Economic efficiency (E.E)	70.00	65.34	78.59
Relative E. E (%)	100	93.34	112.27

*Treatments, T0 = Control, containing no MOLM;

T7.5 = Containing 7.5% MOLM; T15= Containing 15% MOLM.

CONCLUSION

Moringa oleifera leaves meal can be used up to 15% in rabbit's diets as a protein source without any detrimental effects on productive performances, carcass traits and physiological status.

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التقييم الغذائي لإحلال مسحوق أوراق المورينجا كمصدر بروتيني محل كسب فول الصويا في علائق الأرانب النامية في شمال سيناء

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الهدف من هذه الدراسة تقييم استخدام مسحوق أوراق المورينجا كمصدر بروتيني في تغذية الأرانب , ستة وثلاثون أرنباً نيوزيلاندى من كلا الجنسين مقطومه عمر ستة أسابيع بمتوسط وزن 858 جراماً قُسمت الى ثلاثة مجموعات بكل منها 12 أرنباً . غُذيت المجموعة الأولى (الكنترول) على عليقة مقارنة (0% مسحوق أوراق المورينجا) , بينما المجموعتان الثانية والثالثة غُذيتا على عليقة تحتوى الغذائية للأرانب النامية وفي نهاية التجربة عند عمر 14 اسبوعاً تم إجراء تجربة هضم لتقدير معاملات الهضم للمكونات الغذائية والقيمة الغذائية للعلائق الثلاثة بالإضافة لذبح ثلاثة أرانب من كل مجموعة لتقدير صفات الذبيحة وبعض مكونات الدم والاستجابة المناعية. أوضحت النتائج المتحصل عليها ما يلى :

- عدم وجود فروق معنوية في الوزن الحى النهائى , الزيادة اليومية , معدل المأكول اليومي بين المجاميع الثلاثة
- معدل التحويل الغذائى تأثر معنوياً نتيجة إستبدال مسحوق أوراق المورينجا بدلاً من كسب فول الصويا حيث ان مجموعة الكنترول سجلت أفضل قيمه (4.28) تلتها المجموعة الثالثة 15% (4.43) بينما المجموعة الثانية 7.5% سجلت اسواء قيمة (4.65)
- كل معاملات الهضم للمركبات الغذائية ما عدا الألياف الخام والقيمة الغذائية (مجموع المركبات الكلية المهضومه TDN و البروتين المهضوم DCP و الطاقة المهضومه DE) للعلائق التجريبيه قلت معنوياً نتيجة زيادة مستوى إحلال مسحوق أوراق المورينجا فى العلائق

- لم توجد اختلافات معنوية لمعظم مكونات الدم (البروتين الكلى , البيليروبين, الكوليسترول , اليوريا , الكرياتينين , انزيمات الكبد AST و ALT)

- إزداد تركيز مستوى الجلوكوز معنوياً مع المجموعتان الثانية والثالثة والتي تغذت على علائق تحتوى على مسحوق أوراق المورينجا مقارنة بالمجموعة الكنترول

- الألبومين , الألبومين / الجلوبيولين قل معنوياً بينما الجلوبيولين إزداد معنوياً مع المجموعة الثانية (7.5 %) مقارنة بكل من المجموعة الأولى (0%) والثالثة (15%)

- وعموما كل مكونات الدم فيما عدا اليوريا كانت في المستوى الطبيعى للأرانب النامية
- كان هناك تحسن معنوى للإستجابة المناعية للأرانب المغذاه على علائق تحتوى على مسحوق أوراق المورينجا مقارنة بمجموعة الكنترول

- حققت المجموعة الثالثة (15 %) أعلى عائد اقتصادى مقارنة بمجموعة الكنترول

الخلاصة: يمكن إدخال مسحوق أوراق المورينجا حتى مستوى 15 % كمصدر بروتين بدلاً من كسب فول الصويا فى علائق الأرانب النامية دون أن يؤثر ذلك على الصفات الإنتاجية والفسولوجية للأرانب النامية.