

Effect of herbal growth stimulators on the performance of broiler chicks

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ABSTRACT : A study was conducted to see the impact of herbal drugs on the performance of broilers. Day - old 450 broiler chicks (Cobb-400) was randomly divided into 6 groups of 75 each and maintained upto 35 days fed on basal ration (G₁) along with 2% aswagandha (*Withania somnifera*) - G₂, vidarikand (*Pueraria tuberosa*) - G₃, guduchi (*Tinospora cordifolia*) - G₄, aswagandha and vidarikand mixed in the ratio of 1:3(G₅), aswagandha and guduchi mixed in the ratio of 1:3(G₆). The feed intake decreased and gain in body weight increased (P<0.01) in aswagandha alone and with guduchi fed groups but, the gain in body weight and feed intake both decreased (P<0.01) when vidarikand was added in the diet as compared to control (G₁). The dressing per cent was the highest (P<0.01) in groups G₆ (77.80%), G₂ (77.62%) and G₄ (77.59%) than the groups G₃ (69.47%), G₅ (73.72%) and G₁ (74.47%). The feed conversion ratio was very low (P<0.01) in groups G₂ (1.65), G₄ and G₆ (1.72) than rest of the groups. The level of triglycerides increased (P<0.01) when vidarikand was replaced by guduchi. The level of cholesterol increased (P<0.01) in groups G₃ (120.21mg/dl), G₄ (126.17mg/dl) and G₅ (135.88mg/dl) than other groups. Significant (P<0.05) correlation (r = 0.816) was observed between the levels of SGPT and urea in the blood. The correlation from SGOT to triglycerides (r = -0.795) and cholesterol (r = -0.65) were not significant.

Key Words: Aswagandha, vidarikand, guduchi, blood profile, broilers performance.