Tables of nutritive value for farm animals in tropical and Mediterranean regions: an important asset for improving the use of local feed resources

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Objectives

In tropical, subtropical and Mediterranean areas, the demand for animal products is steadily growing, and so does the need for accurate feed information. However, users in those regions must often rely on data obtained in temperate countries or use obsolete or incomplete feed tables.

- The Tables of nutritive values for farm animals in tropical and Mediterranean regions is a project of INRA, CIRAD and AFZ with support from the FAO and other organisations.
- These tables will contain comprehensive and updated nutritional information as well as relationships between composition and nutrition parameters for conventional and non-conventional feed materials for the main livestock species. The work will also help identifying areas of incomplete knowledge thereby stimulating needed research.
- A better knowledge of local feeds will result in a more efficient use of these resources, less reliance on imported techniques and feeds, and better opportunities for livestock in sustainable integrated farming systems.

Methodology

- Research and identification of data sources.
- Collection and summarizing of quantitative and qualitative feed data.
- Establishment of consistent chemical and nutritive values. For feed groups, the methods of meta-analysis

Results

A database containing 7000 documents, 430,000 feed samples and more than 2 million data.

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are used.



Contents

Tables are presented in the form of datasheets containing the following information:

- Feed nomenclature and descriptions: scientific and vernacular names, physical aspect, processes, uses and environmental impact.
- Photographs and process charts.

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ADL				7.10		-	2
Ash				12.40			P
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Dry matter degradability (effective)		Sheep	1.1		54.48	-	P
a (N)		Sheep			14.50		2
a (N) b (N)		Sheep			80.00	-	2
c (N)		Sheep	1.0		0.03		12
a (DM)		Sheep			35.30	-	20
b (DM)		Sheep			52.30	-	P
c (DM)		Sheep			0.03	-	P
Gas production (24 h)		Sheep			28.10	4	P

A collaborative website enabling on-line editing by the researchers working on the project.

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A first batch of 100 datasheets by the end of 2010.

Further actions

Finding new research partners in order to increase the





- Feeding recommendations for the main livestock species, including cautionary information.
- Composition and nutritive values derived from feed databases and scientific literature.
- Literature references.

breadth of data collection and expertise.

INRA Cirad

- Creation of **200 datasheets per year** until 2013.
- Production of INRA/CIRAD/AFZ tables.
- Creation of a website in partnership with the FAO. Website content will be maintained on a permanent basis to provide updated information to feed users.