Comparisons of sundried grasses with fresh grass, bagasse and rice mill by-product in sheep

Three experiments were conducted to compare the intakes and digestibilities of sundried forages and roughages with or without concentrates by Barbados Blackbelly crossbred sheep. In Experiments I and II 4 x 4 and 5 x 5 latin square designs were used. Sheep with mean liveweights of 12.6 kg and 18.9 kg at the beginning of Experiment I and II, respectively, were fed Hybrid Pennisetum forages and untreated bagasse together with a basal concentrate at fixed levels in Experiment I and Guinea Grass, Tanner grass, bagasse, alkali treated bagasse and rice mill by-product, respectively, in Experment II. Experiment III was a randomised block design in which sheep having mean liveweight of 17.8 g at the beginning of the experiment were fed fresh and sundried Tanner grass.

The digestibility of DM, CP, ADF and the intake of ADF in Experiment I showed no significant difference (P > 0.05) between treatments. Overall means were 74.6, 83.2, 64.2% and 182 g/an/day, respectively.
The bagasse diet had significantly \((P < 0.01)\) lower DMI, CPI and DDMI. Overall means were 737, 175 and 54 g/an/day, respectively.

In Experiment II the roughage diets were significantly \((P < 0.01)\) higher in DMD and ADFD, with overall means of 52.5 and 54.5\%, respectively. While the CPD, DMI, CPI, ADFI and DDMI were significantly \((P < 0.01)\) lower. Overall means were 23.3\%, 363, 37.5, 181 and 191 g/an/day, respectively.

In Experiment III there were no significant \((P > 0.05)\) differences between treatments in the digestibilities and intakes of DM, CP and ADF. Overall digestibilities were 54.1, 52.1 and 51.2\% and intakes 400, 38.1 and 172 g/an/day, respectively.

Sundrying was a suitable method of producing conserved forage of fair quality to take the place of fresh forages.