

THE FEEDING VALUE OF CULL MYSORE BANANAS FOR PIGS

1. While varieties grown at present largely as a food crop in present rations or for filling in gaps in some rations.

2. Varieties resistant to Panama disease and Cavendish leaf spot disease that are used in pure stands for the re-establishment of new banana groves.

The variety Mysore falls into the latter group, and, according to Frank (1931) was reported to be one of the banana varieties used in India. It admirably suits the purpose.

INTRODUCTION

In the tropics a variety of crop products are used for feeding to livestock. Often these crop products are included in the rations of livestock in a haphazard way whenever such products become available. It is only relatively recently that a scientific approach to the use of these products has been made in an endeavour to guide those who utilise them for feeding to stock.

The present project sought to determine the digestibility of green Mysore bananas when fed to pigs, and from these values to assess their value as a food for pigs.

The fingers themselves were short and rather fat (4 1/2 ins. long by 1 1/2 ins. broad) with a relatively thin skin and yellowish to buff coloured flesh with a very bitter unpleasant flavour and with a consistency described as "spongy, soft" (Frank 1931).

Besides its rather unpalatable acidic flavour the variety is only consumed by local people who have an acquired taste for this banana, and even then it is only eaten when full ripe. This appears to be a common feature of the varieties mentioned in group 2. Consequently the fruits are sold cheaply by the peasants for feeding to livestock, especially pigs. The entire fruit is fed and is cooked, the fruit being