EFFECT OF FEEDING AZOLLA (AZOLLA PINNATA) ON THE PERFORMANCE OF WHITE PEKIN LAYING DUCKS

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ABSTRACT

A study was conducted to find out the effect of feeding fresh azolla (Azolla pinnata) on the performance of White Pekin laying ducks (60 nos, 56 weeks ) distributed into three groups on deep litter and were randomly fed three diets i.e. T1-control diet (Standard duck layer diet (SDLD)), T2 (SDLD reduced by 10% + fresh azolla @ 100g/duck/day) and T3(SDLD reduced by 20% + fresh azolla @ 200g/duck/day) for 56 days.The Azolla contained 4.90 % DM; 24.93% CP; 3.48% EE; 13.80% CF and 16.84% TA. Significant (P<0.05) decrease in feed intake was observed in laying ducks fed diet given fresh azolla @ 200g/duck/day. The egg production, egg weight, feed conversion ratio (FCR) and performance efficiency index (PEI) increased significantly due to supplementation of fresh azolla at both levels. The shape index of eggs was significantly (P<0.01) higher for ducks fed kept on T2. The haugh unit score, albumen index, yolk index and shell thickness were similar for control and azolla fed ducks. It can be concluded that feeding of fresh azolla @ 200g/duck/day as replacement of 20 % of concentrate feed in White Pekin Laying ducks was beneficial in terms of improved egg production, egg weight, FCR, PEI and egg shape index with enriched yolk colour.