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Substitution of Soybean Meal with Fermented Kapok Seeds and its Effect on the Growth Performance and nutrient digestibility of Sheep Raised in Cages with Thatched and Zinc Roofs

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Substitution of Soybean Meal with Fermented Kapok Seeds and its Effect on the Growth Performance and nutrient digestibility of Sheep Raised in Cages with Thatched and Zinc Roofs

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ABSTRACT

Fermented kapok seeds (FKS) are rich in various nutrients, so they can be used as animal protein feed to replace soybean meal (SBM) in animal feed. This study aimed to study the effect of substituting soybean meal with fermented kapok seeds on the growth performance and digestibility of lambs reared in corrals thatched with either thatch roofs or zinc roofs. This study used a 2 x 5 split plot pattern randomized block design and was replicated three times.

29 Livestock was grouped based on body weight. The main plots are two types of stable roofs
30 (thatched roofs and zinc roofs). The subplots were five levels of soybean meal being substituted
31 with fermented kapok seeds, namely: R1: 100% Soybean Meal, R2: 75% Soybean Meal + 25%
32 Fermented Kapok Seeds, R3: 50% Soybean Meal + 50% Fermented Kapok Seeds, 25%
33 Fermented Kapok Seed Soybean + 75% Fermented Kapok Seeds and R5: 100% Fermented
34 Kapok Seeds. The results showed that the cage roof showed a significant difference ($P \leq 0.05$)
35 in body weight, dry matter intake, growth performance, and digestibility in rams, with the
36 highest value in the thatched roof. Likewise, substituting soybean meal with fermented kapok
37 seeds makes a significant difference ($P \leq 0.05$) with the highest value in the R4 and R5 diet
38 groups. However, there was no interaction between the roof of the cage and substituting
39 soybean meal with fermented kapok seeds ($P > 0.05$) on body weight, dry matter intake, growth
40 performance, and digestibility in rams.

41

42 **Keywords:** Fermented kapok seeds, Soybean meal, Growth performance, Digestibility, Sheep

43

44

45 INTRODUCTION

46

47 According to Ewing et al. (1999), the body's heat load increases when the temperature rises.
48 The heat will be released into the environment as water as an evaporation product through the
49 mouth, skin, and lungs. According to Dukes (1995), heat currents and other stresses can affect
50 feed consumption, whereas in mild heat stress with an ambient temperature of 25°C - 35°C, feed
51 consumption decreases by 3-10 percent. At a cold ambient temperature of around 5°C - 15°C,
52 feed consumption increases by 2 - 5 percent.

53 Sheep are ruminant livestock that can utilize low-quality forage, such as corn leaf forage, as
54 food for high-quality products due to the presence of microorganisms in the rumen. Using
55 forage as a single ration causes the livestock in question to only obtain food substances for their
56 basic living needs and little for production. Efforts to meet the nutritional content of forages
57 can be carried out by adding solid foods or concentrates (Gonzaga dos Santos et al., 2019).
58 Concentrates can increase the ration's protein, carbohydrates, minerals, or vitamins (Gonzaga
59 dos Santos et al., 2019). However, giving concentrate depends on the quality of the forage
60 provided. The higher the forage quality, the fewer nutrients are supplied from the concentrate
61 (Metkono et al., 2011). According to Nugroho et al. (2021), foods that contain a lot of
62 concentrates and high starch content will cause a high concentration of microorganisms, so
63 digestibility increases. Furthermore, Supratman et al. (2016) stated that increasing livestock
64 productivity is only possible by providing high-quality concentrates.

65 One type of concentrate that can be given to ruminants is soybean meal. Soybean meal contains
66 protein: 41.3%, fat: 4.9%, crude fiber: 5.3%, and BFTN: 26.5% (Hartadi et al., 1993). The
67 availability of soybean meal for the global animal industry is limited, where daily use competes
68 with human needs. Soybean production cannot meet livestock needs, so soybean imports
69 increase rapidly in Indonesia. The high price of soybean meal affects the cost of animal feed in
70 Indonesia. Therefore other alternatives are sought. One alternative to soybean meal is kapok
71 seed (*Ceiba Pentandra*). Kapok seeds are widely available in various regions in Indonesia, and
72 the price is relatively low.

73 According to the Directorate General of Plantations (2019), kapok seed production in 2018
74 reached 83,820 tons, while the DPPST (2020) reported that kapok seed production in Central
75 Sulawesi during 2019 reached 385.59 tons per year. This condition supports the need for animal
76 feed ingredients because the crude protein content in kapok seeds is relatively high, reaching
77 27.30% (Hartadi et al., 1993).

78 One obstacle in using kapok seeds as animal feed is their low palatability. In addition, they
79 contain a type of poison, cyclopropenoid acid, and as much as 10-13% of their fatty acids.
80 Efforts to eliminate or reduce the adverse effects of kapok seeds can be fermented using the
81 services of *Neurospora sitophila*. *Neurospora sitophila* can grow freely at 25° - 30°C with a
82 humidity of 70 - 90% and a pH of 4.5 - 6.5. *Neurospora sitophila* mold can produce protease
83 enzymes which have the role of breaking down kapok seed protein into easily digestible amino
84 acids, lipase enzymes which break down fats or glycerides into free fatty acids and amylase
85 enzymes which convert carbohydrates into simple sugars; or esters which produce flavors and
86 Attractive aroma at the end of the product. In addition, *Neurospora sitophila* can protect its
87 products from aflatoxin poisons and even reduce them. The nutritional content of kapok seeds
88 after being fermented using *Neurospora sitophila* was 41.84% (Result of laboratory analysis at
89 Tadulako University, 1996).

90 Research on combining soybean meal and fermented kapok seeds for fattening sheep is still
91 limited. The findings of Hao et al. (2020) demonstrated that soybean meal could be effectively
92 replaced by linseed meal in fattening sheep feeds. Kapok seeds contain 28-34% crude protein,
93 22-40% fat, and 25-35% nitrogen-free extract (Lubis, 1998). Kapok seed oil contains about
94 50% oleic acid, 30% linoleic acid, 15% palmitic acid, and 5% linolenic fatty acid (Allen et al.,
95 2002). In addition, it has been reported that using kapok seeds is based on protein digestibility,
96 the optimum enzyme concentration that gives the best digestibility value is 0.20% (68.43%) at
97 an error rate of 0.05 (Primadona et al., 2013). However, it also contains Gossypol, an
98 antifertility substance that affects the control of reproductive hormones and has a cytotoxic
99 effect. Giving kapok seed extract (*Ceiba pentandra* Gaertn) can reduce testosterone levels and
100 the weight of male rats' reproductive organs (Wiratmini et al., 2019). Therefore, we
101 hypothesized that replacing an appropriate proportion of soybean meal with fermented kapok
102 seeds could benefit lamb growth performance and nutrient digestibility. Therefore, this study

103 aimed to determine the effect of replacing soybean meal portions with fermented kapok seeds
104 in sheep feed on the growth performance and nutrient digestibility of sheep reared in cages
105 with thatch and zinc roofs.

106

107 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

108

109 **ANIMALS AND EXPERIMENTAL TREATMENT DIETS**

110 The study was conducted in the experimental land Faculty of Animal Husbandry and Fisheries,
111 Tadulako University (Palu, Indonesia). The Animal Care and Ethics Committee of the Faculty
112 of Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, Tadulako University, approved all animal procedures.
113 Thirty local rams aged 8-10 months weighing 10-16 kg were randomly divided into three
114 groups and assigned to one of the five treatment diets (Table 1).

115 The treatment diets contained a similar ratio of corn and Rice Bran but with different
116 proportions the concentrate of SBM and FKS, which were as follows: R1 = 100% soybean
117 meal; R2 = 75% soybean meal + 25% fermented kapok seeds; R3 = 50% soybean meal + 50%
118 fermented kapok seeds; R4 = 25% soybean meal + 75% fermented kapok seeds; R5 = 100%
119 fermented kapok seeds.

120 The manufacture of fermented kapok seeds consists of one part onggok (onggok is a solid waste
121 in the form of dregs from cassava processing into tapioca) and four parts of kapok seeds. The
122 two ingredients are mixed until homogeneous and steamed for 30 minutes, then cooled and
123 sprinkled with *Neurospora sitophila* and stored in a place of 25°C - 30°C for two days.
124 *Neurospora sitophila* was obtained from boiled corn cobs and stored at room temperature. The
125 concentrate is 1.5% of the body weight of the animal. Comparison between forage and
126 concentrate as a ration used in research is 50%: 50%. The pelleted total mixed ration was

127 prepared using a horizontal feed mixer. The research implementation consisted of the first 10
128 days for an adaptation period and 50 days for the data collection stage.

129

130 **SAMPLE COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS**

131 Feed consumption was calculated daily. BW for each ram was measured on days 10 and 50 of
132 the experimental period before the morning feeding. On day 51, all the sheep were moved to
133 individual metabolism cages to determine the apparent total tract digestibility. After five days
134 of adaptation, the quantity of feeds and feces was recorded daily for each ram for five
135 consecutive days.

136 The fecal samples collected for five days were then mixed homogeneously, and then a sub-
137 sampling of 10% of the total sample was carried out for further analysis for the content of crude
138 protein, crude fiber, and crude fat. The feed and feces samples obtained during the sampling
139 period were baked in the oven at 65° C for 48 hours. Furthermore, the feed and feces samples
140 were milled finely for analysis of crude protein, crude fat, and crude fiber content. The content
141 of crude protein, crude fiber, and crude fat was determined following the Association of
142 Official Analytical Chemists (2000) procedures. The chemical composition of R1-R5 is
143 presented in Table 2.

144

145 **EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN**

146 This study used a 2 x 5 Split Plot Pattern Randomized Group Design with three replications.
147 Grouping livestock based on body weight. The main plot consists of 2 types of stable roofs,
148 namely:

149 1. Cages with thatched roofs

150 2. Cage with zinc roofs.

151 Subplots consist of 5 levels of substitution of soybean meal with fermented kapok seeds,
152 namely:

153 R1 = 100% soybean meal

154 R2 = 75% soybean meal + 25% fermented kapok seeds

155 R3 = 50% soybean meal + 50% fermented kapok seeds

156 R4 = 25% soybean meal + 75% fermented kapok seeds

157 R5 = 100% fermented kapok seeds

158

159 **STATISTIC ANALYSIS**

160 Sheep production performance data such as body weight, dry matter intake, growth
161 performance, and digestibility were analyzed using the PROC MIXED procedure from SAS
162 (version 9.4; SAS Institute Inc., Cary, NC, USA), with cage treatment as plots main and
163 substitution of soybean meal with fermented kapok seeds as subplots and body weight of sheep
164 in the treatment group. The statistical model is as follows:

$$165 Y_{ijk} = \mu + \rho_k + \alpha_i + \beta_j + \delta_{ik} + (\alpha\beta)_{ij} + \varepsilon_{ijk} \quad (1)$$

166 With:

167 Y_{ijk} = observed value on factor A level I and factor B level j in the k-th block,

168 μ = additive component of the general average,

169 ρ_k = main group effect,

170 α_i = main effect of factor A,

171 β_j = main effect of factor B,

172 $(\alpha\beta)_{ij}$ = interaction component of factor A and factor B,

173 δ_{ik} = main plot random component,

174 ε_{ijk} = subplot random component,

175 $i = 1, 2, 3, \dots a; j = 1, 2, 3, \dots b; k = 1, 2, 3, \dots r.$

176 Statistical significance was defined at $P \leq 0.05$; the trend is expressed at $0.05 < P \leq 0.10$.

177

178

179 **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

180

181 **DM INTAKES AND GROWTH PERFORMANCES**

182 Dry matter intake and growth performance in rams in each treatment is shown in Table 3.

183 The ram's body weight, dry matter intake, growth performance, and digestibility were
184 significantly ($p \leq 0.05$) influenced by the type of roof of the cage (Table 3 and Table 4).

185 Likewise, the feed treatment (substitution of soybean meal with fermented kapok seeds)

186 significantly ($p \leq 0.05$) affected the ram's body weight (Table 3). However, the interaction

187 effect between the cage's roof type and the substitution of soybean meal with fermented kapok

188 seeds was insignificant (data not presented). The body weight of rams was significantly ($p \leq$

189 0.05) higher in the cage with a thatched roof when compared to the zinc-roofed cage. A

190 thatched roof is a bad temperature conductor, receiving and reflecting heat. In contrast, a tin

191 roof is a good temperature conductor (Ponni and Baskar, 2015), receiving heat and continuing

192 it into the cage. The temperature of the cage using a thatched roof was $24^{\circ}\text{C} - 30^{\circ}\text{C}$ or an

193 average of 27°C , while the temperature in the cage using a tin roof was $24^{\circ}\text{C} - 36^{\circ}\text{C}$ or an

194 average of 30°C . An increase in the temperature of the cage can cause ration consumption to

195 decrease so that the sheep's growth slows down. At high ambient temperatures, livestock will

196 try to dissipate the heat received so that the temperature remains constant by reducing

197 consumption and increasing evaporation. According to Gonzaga dos Santos et al. (2019), every

198 1°C increase can reduce ration consumption by 1.7%. In addition, if the temperature continues

199 to increase, it can affect the central nervous system so that ration consumption decreases and

200 water consumption increases, resulting in reduced sheep growth. Consumption of dry matter

201 will decrease if there is an increase in temperature. According to Dukes (1995), heat stress
202 could affect feed consumption, where in heat stress with an ambient temperature of 25°C -
203 35°C, ration consumption decreases by 3 - 10%. This is relevant to the findings of Sudita (2016)
204 and Dwipayana et al. (2019), who stated that livestock shelters affect dry matter consumption.
205 There tends to be a higher level of dry matter consumption in shelters due to a higher level of
206 digestibility. The high level of digestibility correlated with the level of dry matter consumption.
207 According to McDonald et al. (2002), feed digestibility and feed digested rate affect ration
208 consumption.

209 Feed treatment responded positively to the BW of rams ($P \leq 0.05$), with the highest value
210 in the R4 and R5 diet groups (Table 3). This indicates that fermented kapok seeds could replace
211 soybean meal as animal feed. Hosoda et al. (2019) and Botkin et al. (1988) state that various
212 types of rations containing dry matter, protein, crude fiber, and energy can increase body
213 weight. Protein functions to form new tissue and replace damaged tissue (Harm et al., 2022).
214 Kapok seeds can replace soybean meal as animal feed if fermented first. In fermentation,
215 *Neurospora sitophila* can remove the toxic cyclopropenoid acid present in kapok seeds.
216 Grubješić et al. (2020) stated that fermentation causes improvements to specific properties of
217 the basic food ingredients, changes in organoleptic properties, and can reduce toxic
218 compounds. Other benefits of fermentation are changing the taste and aroma for the better,
219 increasing durability, and reducing toxic compounds from the basic ingredients (Bernardini et
220 al., 2012). In addition, fermented feed will have better palatability, so sheep prefer it (Palupi et
221 al., 2023).

222 Some studies have reported the protein content in kapok seeds is 28.79% (Primadona et
223 al., 2013) and 29% (Ariani, 1999), but the results of this study are lower. FKS is a good protein
224 source for rams at concentrations of up to 54% of DM. In the present study, the partial
225 replacement of SBM with FKS affects the DMI and increases the growth performance. Studies

226 have shown that FKS and its by-products can improve the growth performance of animals
227 (Primadona et al., 2013).

228 Kapok fiber has a hollow tubular structure with a diameter of $14.5 \pm 2.4 \mu\text{m}$ (Huang and
229 Lim, 2006) and a length ranging from 0.8 to 3 cm (Vázquez Yanes et al., 1999). Due to these
230 morphological characteristics, kapok fiber has been used for heavy metal absorption (Chung et
231 al., 2008); this indicates that substituting soybean meal with fermented kapok seeds can
232 improve livestock health.

233 According to Wu et al., 2017 increased feed efficiency might be attributed to the balanced
234 amino acid profile. Additionally, Quezada and Cherian (2012) and Hao et al. (2020) concluded
235 that high antioxidant activity and higher phenolic and flavonoid content would enhance ADG
236 animals. However, the actual concentration of those functional components in FKS and their
237 effects on rams should be analyzed in the future.

238

239 **DIGESTIBILITY**

240 The digestibility in CP, CF, and fat of ram livestock rations during the study is shown in Table.
241 4.

242 Substitution of Soybean Meal with Fermented Kapok Seeds at increasing levels increased
243 digestibility in CP, CF, and fat ($P = 0.05$), with the highest value in the R4 and R5 groups. The
244 highest crude protein digestibility results were in R4 (65.17%) and R5 (66.33%). These results
245 are higher than the research by Rahman et al. (2013), which stated that the digestibility of crude
246 protein in goats fed palm kernel meal was 52.1%. However, this is lower than the results of
247 Aregheore's (2000) study, which stated that the digestibility of crude protein in goats-fed corn
248 cobs was 70.1%.

249 The higher digestibility coefficient of crude protein is directly proportional to the increase in
250 the body weight of livestock. Digestibility can be influenced by several factors, such as the

251 composition of feed ingredients, the composition ratio between one feed ingredient and another
252 feed ingredient, feed treatment, enzyme supplementation in feed, livestock, and feed level
253 (McDonald et al., 2002). Gultom et al. (2016) added that the administration of rations with
254 physical (chooper), biological (chooper and *Aspergillus niger*), and chemical (chooper and
255 urea) treatments affected the digestibility of crude protein. Paramita et al. (2008) stated that in
256 vivo, the quality of the feed ingredients given was seen through consumption and the magnitude
257 of the digestibility value, which indicates the amount of nutrients that can be used as necessities
258 for life and growth. Tillman et al. (2005) stated that one factor affecting the digestibility of
259 crude protein is the protein content in the ration consumed by livestock. Rations with low
260 protein content generally have low digestibility and vice versa. Therefore, the level of protein
261 digestibility is influenced by the protein content of the ration ingredients and the amount of
262 protein that enters the digestive tract.

263 We have shown that substituting soybean meal with fermented kapok seeds can increase body
264 weight, consumption of dry matter rations, and feed efficiency of ram sheep. This is relevant
265 to the findings of Aziza et al. (2013) and Nitrayová et al. (2014), who stated that flaxseed and
266 its by-products could improve the growth performance and quality of animal carcasses due to
267 essential amino acids and fatty acids, especially α -linolenic acid (18:3, n-3). Therefore, we
268 emphasize that fermented kapok seeds are a good source of protein, fiber, and fat, making them
269 an excellent healthy food choice for livestock. However, the actual concentrations of the
270 functional components of fermented kapok seeds and their effects on livestock should be
271 analyzed in the future.

272 The highest crude fiber digestibility results were in R4 (43.67%) and R5 (47.00%). These
273 results are lower than the results of Antisa et al. (2020) study, which stated that the digestibility
274 of crude fiber in corn stalks in rams was 56.44%. According to McDonald et al. (2002), the
275 fraction of feed fiber greatly determines digestibility in the amount and chemical composition

276 of the fiber itself. Reinforced by the opinion of Tillman et al. (2005) states that the digestibility
277 of crude fiber depends on the crude fiber content in the ration and the amount of crude fiber
278 consumed. Too high levels of crude fiber can interfere with the digestion of other substances.
279 In addition to the content and amount of crude fiber in the ration, another factor that affects the
280 digestibility of crude fiber is the activity of cellulolytic bacteria in the rumen. Maynard et al.
281 (2005) stated that several factors, including fiber content in the feed, the composition of the
282 crude fiber constituents, and the activity of microorganisms, influenced the digestibility of
283 crude fiber.

284 The highest crude fat digestibility results were in R4 (62.83%) and R5 (63.50%). These results
285 are lower than the results of Mastopan et al. (2014) study, which stated that the digestibility of
286 crude fat in a diet Containing Oil Palm in rams was 95.76%. This is to the statement of Sandri
287 (2009), which states that the digestibility of a feed depends on the quality of the nutrients
288 contained in the feed. In addition, it affects the growth of microorganisms. Tillman et al. (2005)
289 stated that digestibility was not only influenced by the composition of a feed but also affected
290 by the composition of other foods consumed with the feed.

291

292

293 **CONCLUSION**

294

295 We evaluated the substitution of soybean meal with fermented kapok seeds on body weight,
296 dry matter intake, growth performance, and digestibility in rams. The results showed that the
297 type of roof of the cage had a significant effect ($p \leq 0.05$) on increased body weight, dry matter
298 intake, growth performance, and digestibility in rams. The feed treatment (substitution of
299 soybean meal with fermented kapok seeds) had a significant effect ($p \leq 0.05$) on the increase
300 in body weight, dry matter intake, growth performance, and digestibility in rams. The

301 interaction effect between the cage's roof type and feed treatment (soybean meal substitution
302 with fermented kapok seeds) was insignificant. We emphasize that livestock cages with
303 thatched roofs are better livestock-rearing facilities than those with zinc roofs. The soybean
304 meal can be substituted with fermented kapok seeds for animal feed. Fermented kapok seeds
305 are a good source of protein, fiber, and fat, so they are a healthy food choice for livestock.
306 Further research is needed regarding the actual concentration of the functional components of
307 fermented kapok seeds and their effects on livestock. In addition, it is also necessary to carry
308 out a cost-efficiency analysis for the commercialization of the proposed feed.

309

310 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

311

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313 Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology for funding this study.

314

315 **CONFLICT OF INTERESTS**

316

317 The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this
318 article.

319

320 **NOVELTY STATEMENT**

321

322 A study on the Substitution of Soybean Meal with Fermented Kapok Seeds and its Effect on
323 the Growth Performance and nutrient digestibility of Sheep has never been done before.

324

325 **AUTHORS CONTRIBUTION**

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Abdullah Naser conceptualized this study. Then, Abdullah Naser and Effendy surveyed the literature and drafted and revised the manuscript, while Nirwana and Sri Wulan edited and suggested changes. In addition, Zaenal and Mustafa also studied and played a part in drafting the manuscript. Finally, all authors checked and approved the final version of the manuscript for publication in this journal.

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464

465

466 **Table 1:** Arrangement and chemical composition of experimental rations (%)

Items	Treatment				
	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5
Ingredients					
Forage Corn	50	50	50	50	50
Milled Corn	5	5	5	5	5
Rice Bran	5	5	5	5	5

Coconut Cake	20	20	20	20	20
Soybean meal	20	15	10	5	0
Fermented Kapok Seeds	0	5	10	15	20
Amount	100	100	100	100	100
Composition					
Dry Material	54.00	54.00	54.00	54.00	54.00
TDN	60.25	60.20	60.15	60.10	60.05
Proteins	14.20	14.16	14.11	14.06	14.01
Coarse Fiber	7.00	8.11	9.22	10.33	11.44
Fat	3.76	4.06	4.37	4.67	4.98

467 Note: R1 = 100% soybean meal; R2 = 75% soybean meal + 25% fermented kapok seeds; R3 = 50% soybean meal
468 + 50% fermented kapok seeds; R4 = 25% soybean meal + 75% fermented kapok seeds; R5 = 100% fermented
469 kapok seeds

470

471 **Table 2:** Composition and chemical composition (%) of soybean meal (SBM) and fermented
472 kapok seeds (FKS)

Composition	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5
Dry Material	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2
TDN	14	14	13.9	13.9	13.8
Crude Proteins	8.52	8.51	8.46	8.42	8.37
Crude Fiber	1.17	2.28	3.36	4.5	5.61
Fat	0.34	0.65	0.95	0.26	1.56

473 Note: R1 = 100% soybean meal; R2 = 75% soybean meal + 25% fermented kapok seeds; R3 = 50% soybean meal
474 + 50% fermented kapok seeds; R4 = 25% soybean meal + 75% fermented kapok seeds; R5 = 100% fermented
475 kapok seeds

477 **Table 3:** Dry matter intake and growth performance in rams fed five experimental diets

Treatment	BW (kg)	DMI (gr/day)	ADG (gr/day)	Feed efficiency
Cage roof				
Thatched	23.84a	533.73a	101.85a	0.192a
Zinc	16.45b	461.45b	70.25b	0.153b
Substitution of SBM with FKS				
R1	16.97a	485.95a	75.48a	0.155a
R2	18.30a	484.89a	79.64ab	0.165a
R3	19.61ab	494.91ab	83.73ab	0.170ab
R4	21.81bc	507.55b	91.24bc	0.178ab
R5	24.02c	514.66b	100.17c	0.195b

478 Note: different letters in the column indicate significantly different treatment at $\alpha = 5\%$; BW = Body Weight;

479 DMI = Dry Matter Intake; ADG = average daily gain.

480

481 **Table 4:** Digestibility in rams fed the five experimental diets (%)

Treatment	CP	CF	Fat
Cage roof			
Thatched	64.60a	42.33a	64.20a
Zinc	61.93b	39.93b	57.20b
Substitution of SBM with FKS			
R1	59.83a	37.83a	57.50a

R2	61.00a	37.83a	58.83ab
R3	64.00b	39.33a	60.83abc
R4	65.17bc	43.67b	62.83bc
R5	66.33c	47.00b	63.50c

482

 Note: different letters in the column indicate significantly different treatment at $\alpha = 5\%$; CP = Crude Protein; CF

483 = Crude fiber

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