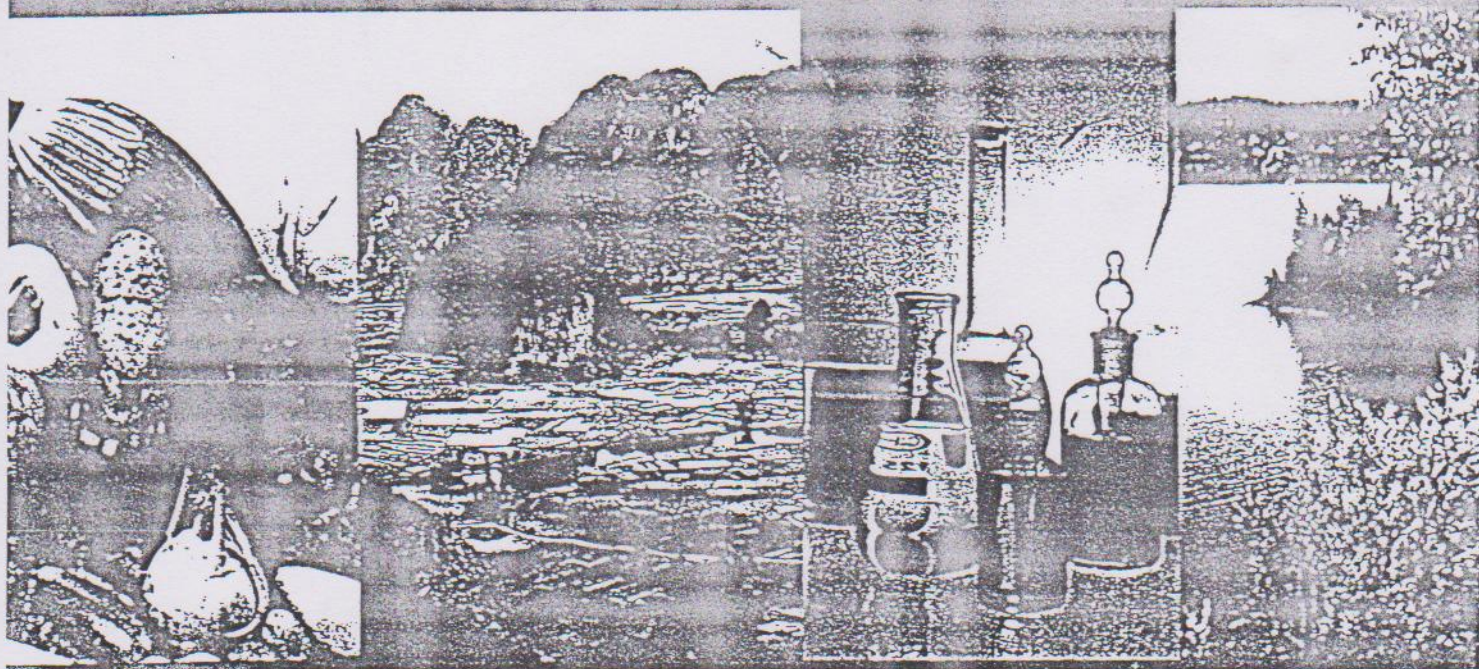
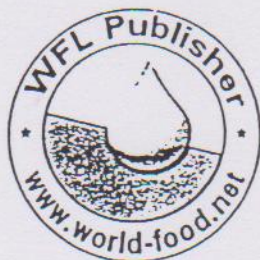


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Commentary

Evaluation of the adequacy of methodology and testing systems for detection and identification of GMOs

Yousef S. Al-Hafedh

8

Photopedogenesis: Concept and Application

B. B. Mishra, Heluf Gebrekidan and Sheleme Beyene

12

Food & Health

Evidence that sensitivity to 6-*n*-propylthiouracil (PROP) affects perception of retro-nasal aroma intensity

Gary J. Pickering, Gina Haverstock and David DiBattista

15

The development of disease free areas across Europe

Olaf Neuteboom and Jan Slingenbergh

23

Dietary intake and chronic diseases in Jamaica - An island-wide survey

Dalip Ragoobirsingh, Errol Y. St. A. Morrison, Pauline Johnson and Eva Lewis-Fuller

31

Supplementation of ogi, a maize-based infant weaning food, with African oil bean (*Pentaclethra macrophylla* Benth) seed

Victor N. Enujiugha

34

Compositional evaluation of cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata*) and scarlet runner bean (*Phaseolus coccineus*) varieties grown in Nigeria

Aremu M. Olaleke, Olaofe Olorunfemi and T. Emmanuel Akintayo

39

Lactic acid improves the efficacy of anti-microbial washing solutions for apples

H. P. Vasantha Rupasinghe, Jeanine Boulter-Bitzer and

Joseph A. Odumeru

44

Effects of weaning programs on serum metabolites and hepatic IGF-1 mRNA of first-calf heifers or mature cows

Travis Whitney, Glenn Duff, Peder Cuneo, David Henderson, David Schafer, Dennis Hallford, Robert Collier and Paula Gentry

49

Protein replacement value of cassava (*Manihot esculenta*, Crantz) leaf protein concentrate (CLPC): Effects on egg quality, biochemical and haematological indices in laying birds

Fasuyi Ayodeji Oludare

54

Rumen degradation and *in vitro* gas production parameters in some browse forages, grasses and maize stover from Kenya

Isaac M. Osuga, Shaikat A. Abdulrazak, Toshiyoshi Ichinohe and Tsutomu Fujihara

60

Effect of hot water dips in controlling rooting and sprouting of minimally processed sliced garlic (*Allium sativum* L.) during room temperature storage

A. H. Abd Rahim, A. Osman, N. Saari and R. Abdul Rahman

65

Haematological and biochemical responses of Balami sheep to experimental *Fasciola gigantica* infection

M.I. Ahmed, A.G. Ambali and S.S. Baba

71

Cows milk quality in two regions in Lebanon and its effect on Baladi (local) cheese quality

Rabih Kamleh, Raja Tannous and Elias El Maydaa

75

Antioxidant activity of tropical fruit jam and marmalade processed with different combinations of peel and flesh in *Citrus* fruit

Hiroyuki Yoshikawa, Asako Ogawa, Kimiaki Fukuhara and Satoru Kondo

78

Novel plantaricin UG1 production by *Lactobacillus plantarum* UG1 in enriched whey permeate in batch fermentation processes

Gamal Enan and Abdul Aziz Al Amri

85

Chemical composition and antibacterial and antimutagenic activities of four populations of *Rosmarinus officinalis* L. oils from Tunisia

Zohra Marzouk, Hédi Ben Mansour, Imed Chraief, Ridha Mosrati, Jihene Cheriaa, Aicha Neffati, Belsem Marzouk, Mounira Sfari, Kamel Boukef, Daniel Barillies and Leila Chekir Ghedira

89

Effects of different sources of heat on the quality of smoked fish

B. A. Oyewole, B. J. Agun and K. F. Omotayo

95

Near infrared spectroscopy, cluster and multivariate analysis - contributions to wine analysis

Wolfgang Guggenbichler, Christian W. Huck, Armin Kobler, Michael Popp and Günther K. Bonn

98

Effect of harvest dates and forced-air cooling on postharvest quality of apricot cv. *Precoc de Tyrinthe*

Tayfun Agar, Sevgi Paydaş, Orhan Büyükalaca, Okan Özkaya, Fırat Ekinci and Ferhan Küçükbaşmacı Sabır

101

Determination of technologic and sensory properties of cookies prepared with corn flour

Nermin Bilgiçli, Meryem Kara, Adem Elgün, Nilgün Ertay and M. Kürşec Demir

107

Peroxidase and polyphenoloxidase activities in uvaia fruit at different maturations stages

Edmar Clemente and José Maria Correia Costa

11

The safe feeding level of *Moringa oleifera* seedcake as a alternative protein source to livestock

A.M.V. Kakengi, M.N. Shem, S.V. Sarwatt, K. Hasegawa, Y. Sasaki, Hayashi and T. Fujihara

11

...m setting point matrix on shelf life and quality amarind cheese <i>A. Mohammed and L.D. Wickham</i>	120	Morphological diversity among Indian jujube (<i>Ziziphus mauritiana</i> Lamk.) genotypes collected at Hisar, India <i>P.L. Saran, A.K. Godara, I.S. Yadav, S.K. Schrawat and G. Lal</i>	172
...cture and performance evaluation of cacao marketing stitutions in South-Western Nigeria: An economic analysis <i>J.A. Folayan, G.A. Daramola and A.E. Oguntade</i>	125	Application of molecular markers for hybrid maize (<i>Zea mays</i> L.) identification <i>A. L. Abdel-Mawgood, M. M. M. Ahmed and B. A. Ali</i>	176
Comparative quality characterization and molecular profiling of Indian, Sri Lankan and Guatemalan cardamoms <i>Elizabeth Thomas, Jaleel Kizhakkayil, T. John Zachariah, S. Syamkumar and B. Sasikumar</i>	129	Correlation of PCR and IFAS with eggplant bioassays for identification of <i>Clavibacter michiganensis</i> subsp. <i>sepedonicus</i> <i>Ahmed L. Abdel-Mawgood and Thomas L. German</i>	179
Gel permeation chromatography clean-up prior to liquid chromatography for determination of aflatoxins in spices <i>Emad R. Attallah, Sohair A. Gad, Salwa M. Dogheim, Ahmed Ismail Hashem, and Emtithal. A. El-Sawi</i>	134	Comparison of yield performance and profitability in hybrid yam varieties cultivated under staked and unstaked production systems <i>G.O. Agbaje and A.A. Adegbite</i>	183
Relative susceptiblity of Najdi, Neimi and Hari lambs indigenous to Saudi Arabia to experimental infection with <i>Haemonchus contortus</i> <i>Ahmed E. Fatani, E. A. Elamin, S. A. Atiya and Hamdan I. Al-Mohammed</i>	137	Relative drought tolerance of important herbaceous legumes and cereals in the moist and semi-arid regions of West Africa <i>S. U. Ewansiha and B. B. Singh</i>	188
Staple Food Policy and Supply Response in Nigeria: A case of Cassava <i>Nkang M. Nkang, Daniel S. Udom and Sylvanus O. Abang</i>	143	Screening for tolerance of stress temperature during germination of twenty five cowpea (<i>Vigna unguiculata</i> L. Walp) cultivars <i>Shahidul Islam, Rafaela C. Carmen and James O. Garner, Jr.</i>	191
Agriculture		Cryopreservation of potato (<i>Solanum tuberosum</i> L.) shoot tips using vitrification and droplet method <i>Artur Kryszczuk, Joachim Keller, Marion Grube and Ewa Zimnoch- Guzowska</i>	196
Quantitative analysis of seed genetic model including embryo and endosperm effects in multiple environments <i>Abderrahmane Achouch, Mebrouk Benmoussa and Sid Ahmed Snoussi</i>	147	Influence of photoperiod and gibberellic acid (GA ₃) on the growth and flowering of cowpea [<i>Vigna unguiculata</i> (L.) WALP] <i>Fatimah B. Mukhtar and B. B. Singh</i>	201
The effect of a combined treatment with retardant and auxin on mineral composition of fruits, seeds and leaves of apple trees <i>Alina Basak</i>	150	Mineral status of forages and grazing goats in West Sumatra, Indonesia : 2. Micro minerals <i>Lili Warly, A. Fariani, Evitayani, M. Hayashida and T. Fujihara</i>	204
Macro mineral distribution of forages in South Sumatra during rainy and dry seasons <i>Evitayani, Lili Warly, Armina Fariani, Toshiyoshi Ichinohe, Maki Hayashida, Saukat. A Abdul Razak and Tsutomu Fujihara</i>	155	Multivariate Phenotypic Structures in the Batini barley landrace from Oman <i>A. Y. Al-Maskri, M. Shahid and A. A. Jaradat</i>	208
An economic analysis of split application of organo-mineral fertiliser on okra in humid forest zone of Nigeria. <i>W.B. Akanbi, J.A. Adediran, A.B. Olaniyan and A.O. Togun</i>	161	Micro mineral solubility of forages in South Sumatra, Indonesia <i>Evitayani, L. Warly, A. Fariani, M. Hayashida and T. Fujihara</i>	213
Effect of pre-emergence herbicides on yield and yield components of rice <i>M. A. Mahadi, S. A. Dadari, M. Mahmud and B. A. Babaji</i>	164	Seasonal influence on mineral content of forages used by smallholder dairy farmers in lowlands of Mvomero District, Morogoro, Tanzania <i>Dorah J. Mtui, Faustin P. Lekule, Martin N. Shem, Chrispinus D.K. Rubanza, Toshiyoshi Ichinohe, Maki Hayashida and Tsutomu Fujihara</i>	216
Mineral nutrient and protein contents in tissues, and yield of navy bean, in response to nitrogen fertilization and row spacing <i>K.M. Rizso</i>	168	Effect of planting date on seed yield and quality of barley grown under semi-arid Mediterranean conditions <i>Nazar H. Samarah and Taha A. Al-Issa</i>	222

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Mineral status of forages and grazing goats in West Sumatra, Indonesia:

1. Macro minerals

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Abstract

This experiment was conducted to study macro mineral status of forages and grazing goats in West Sumatra, Indonesia. The forages evaluate consisting 13 species of grass and 7 species of legume were harvested from 5 different locations during dry and rainy seasons. Blood samples of goats were collected at the same locations through jugular puncture to determine macro mineral status of the animals. Results of the study indicate that mineral concentrations of forages varied widely among species and seasons. Calcium concentration of forages both in dry and rainy season was above the critical value for deficiency. However, percentage deficiency of forage phosphorus was found either in dry season (85.7% for legume and 30.8% for grass) or rainy season (71.4% for legume and 30.8% for grass). Average concentration of forage magnesium in dry season was above the critical level, while in rainy season percentage of Mg deficiency was 28.6% for legume and 23.1% for grass. Percentage of sulfur deficiency in dry season was 42.9% for legume and 46.2% for grass, and these values were higher compared to those of rainy season (14.3% for legume and 30.8% for grass). Data on mineral status of grazing goats showed that in overall the incidence of Ca, P and Mg deficiencies were 4.6, 7.7 and 5.7%, respectively. This experiment is a part of a series of experiments on the study of mineral status of forages and grazing goats in West Sumatra, Indonesia.

Key words: Macro mineral status, forages, goats, West Sumatra.

Introduction

Deficiency or imbalance of certain minerals of the forages in tropical countries have been reported by several researchers and suggested as one of the limiting factors for improvement of animal productivity in this region ¹. In most situations of the countries, sheep and goats are commonly raised by small farmers in rural areas under traditional system with native grass, tree leaves and agriculture by-products as main sources of feeds. Consequently, the grazing ruminants receive all nutrients as well as minerals only from the forages consumed in the field because normally no minerals and feed supplements are given to the animals. Ideally, minerals intake must be sufficient to ensure the maintenance of adequate amounts for growing and reproduction of animals. According to McDowell ², the animals receiving forages only as a main source of their feeds are usually deficient in certain minerals due to the forages rarely contain all the minerals required by the grazing animals.

Underwood and Suttle ³ reported that the availability and concentration of minerals in crop and forage plants are influenced by environmental factors such as climate and seasonal conditions during growth, amount of rainfall, the type and soil fertility on which the forages grows, stage of maturity, genus and species or strain (variety) of the forages. High concentration of fiber, especially lignin, can also reduce the availability of minerals for the animals. In Indonesia, land allocated for food crop is not available for forage production, therefore only land not suitable for food crop production with low fertility is used for forage, and

consequently the production and quality of the forage are very low. In general, forage grown in marginal lands has lower nutrient contents than forage grown at high fertility lands. Study by Prabowo *et al.* ⁴ showed that Ca and P are the most deficient minerals of forages in some parts of Indonesia, such as in Sulawesi.

Limited information exists concerning mineral content of forages and mineral status of grazing goats in West Sumatra. Therefore, the present experiment was aimed to investigate the macro mineral composition of some common forages and mineral status of grazing goats in West Sumatra during dry and rainy seasons. This work should be valuable for the provision of a strategic use of mineral supplementation for small ruminants, especially goat in West Sumatra, Indonesia.

Materials and Methods

Investigation area: This study was conducted in five regions in West Sumatra province, namely Padang, Solok, Tanah Datar, Pariaman and Sawahlunto Sijunjung. The province is located in the tropical and monsoon region, lies between 0°54'N to 3°30'S and 98°36' to 101°53'E. There are two seasons during the year, the dry season from February to September and rainy season from November to March. The temperature is nearly constant, differing only a few degrees among the dry and rainy seasons with a temperature ranges from 23 to 31°C. The mean of monthly rainfall

seasons was 195 and 233 mm respectively, with rainfall was 2570 mm.

Forage and blood samples collection: The forage evaluated consisted 13 species of grass (*Axonopus compressus*, *Pennisetum purpurhoides*, *Pennisetum purpureum*, *Setaria sphacelata*, *Cynodon plectotachyus*, *Panicum maximum*, *Paspalum notatum*, *Paspalum dilatatum*, *Brachiaria decumbens*, *Euchlaena mexicana*, *Andropogon gayanus*, *Havea hexandra* and *Cynodon dactylon*) and 7 species of legumes (*Leucaena leucocephala*, *Gliricidia maculata*, *Calopogonium mucunoides*, *Centrosema pubescens* and *Mimosa pudica*). Immediately after harvesting, representative samples were dried at 60°C for 24 hours, ground in a Wiley mill through 1-mm screen and kept for further analyses. At the same time, blood samples were collected by jugular puncture from about 30 goats at each season and region. Mineral concentration in forages and blood plasma were analyzed by Inductively Coupled Plasma Emission Spectrometer (ICPS-2000, Shimadzu, Japan). The difference of the average mineral concentration between dry and rainy season was determined using Student's t-test⁵.

Results and Discussion

As shown in Table 1, the mineral concentration of grass significantly was affected ($p < 0.05$) by species and season. Between forages evaluated, *P. maximum* contained highest Ca

Table 1. Concentration of Ca, P, Mg and S of grass harvested at dry and rainy seasons (g/kg DM).

Species	Season	Ca	P	Mg	S
Critical level*	---	3.0	2.5	2.0	2.6
<i>A. compressus</i>	Rainy	7.4	3.6	4.4	7.5
	Dry	7.1	2.6	4.0	6.3
<i>P. purpurhoides</i>	Rainy	5.3	3.8	2.2	1.6
	Dry	6.5	4.6	2.8	1.8
<i>S. sphacelata</i>	Rainy	7.0	6.2	3.5	4.7
	Dry	6.6	3.3	2.1	2.1
<i>C. plectotachyus</i>	Rainy	7.7	4.7	2.0	5.0
	Dry	9.0	4.4	3.5	2.5
<i>P. purpureum</i>	Rainy	6.0	5.9	3.2	3.6
	Dry	6.1	2.8	2.3	1.9
<i>P. notatum</i>	Rainy	5.9	2.0	2.2	4.1
	Dry	8.5	2.5	3.3	2.9
<i>P. maximum</i>	Rainy	10.7	4.3	3.5	2.6
	Dry	8.5	2.5	3.3	2.9
<i>B. decumbens</i>	Rainy	7.4	2.0	3.8	1.7
	Dry	6.8	2.3	3.2	1.9
<i>E. mexicana</i>	Rainy	3.9	1.7	1.7	1.7
	Dry	10.1	2.5	4.0	1.7
<i>A. gayanus</i>	Rainy	8.9	2.4	3.3	1.4
	Dry	6.6	4.1	2.8	3.6
<i>H. hexandra</i>	Rainy	6.1	3.8	2.2	3.2
	Dry	5.7	4.5	2.7	4.2
<i>P. dilatatum</i>	Rainy	8.8	3.5	3.2	4.0
	Dry	6.4	4.3	2.1	3.2
<i>C. dactylon</i>	Rainy	5.9	2.2	1.4	4.0
	Dry	6.9	2.7	3.2	5.6
Mean	Rainy	7.2	3.5	2.9	3.3
	Dry	7.0	3.6	2.8	3.4
	Overall	7.3	3.3	3.0	3.1
Deficiency (%)	Rainy	0	30.8	23.1 ^a	30.8 ^b
	Dry	0	30.8	0.0 ^b	46.2 ^a
	Overall	0	30.8	11.6	38.5

*Concentration below the critical level is deficient
a, b : significantly different ($p < 0.05$).

concentration (avg. 9.6 g/kg) while the lowest concentration was found in *P. purpurhoides* (avg. 5.9 g/kg). The mean concentration of P varied from 2.1 (*E. mexicana*) to 4.7 g/kg (*S. sphacelata*), Mg from 2.3 (*C. dactylon*) to 4.2 g/kg (*A. compressus*) and S ranged from 1.7 (*P. purpurhoides*, *E. mexicana*) to 6.9 g/kg (*A. compressus*). The difference of mineral contents between species could be caused by genetic factors, botanical composition and characteristics of growth as suggested by Underwood and Suttle³ and Jumba *et al.*⁶

Percentage deficiency of P, Mg and S was significantly affected by season ($p < 0.05$). Deficiency of P, Mg and S in rainy season was 30.8, 23.1 and 30.8%, while deficiency of P and S in dry season was 30.8 and 46.2%, respectively. Deficiency of Mg in the present study was slightly higher compared to the results of Minson⁷ who obtained less than 14% of tropical forages deficient in Mg and thus suggested that Mg was not limiting element in tropical forages, the mean Mg concentration being 3.6 g/kg. Among the minerals evaluated, the highest availability was observed for Ca in almost all grasses observed, concentration being above the critical level, 3.0 g/kg¹. On the other hand Prabowo *et al.*⁴ reported that Ca and P were deficient in most forages grown in South Sulawesi, Indonesia. In comparison with our study, lower nutrient levels in their study might be caused by dissimilarities in forage species evaluated, climate and soil type and fertility.

Table 2 shows macro mineral concentrations of legume forages. The concentration of Ca in all species of legumes was higher than that of critical level¹ with the average value ranging from 13.0 g/kg in *M. pudica* to 16.4 g/kg in *G. maculata*. The mean concentration of Ca in legumes was higher compared with Ca concentration in grass (13.8 vs 7.3 g/kg), while concentration of P in legumes was lower compared with that of grass (2.4 g/kg vs 3.5 g/kg). These findings are in agreement with the results obtained by Minson⁷ and Serra *et al.*⁸. As shown in Table 2, effect of season was significant on concentration of P, Mg and S

Table 2. Concentration of Ca, P, Mg and S of legumes harvested at dry and rainy seasons (g/kg DM).

Species	Season	Ca	P	Mg	S
Critical level*	----	3.0	2.5	2.0	2.6
<i>L. leucocephala</i>	Rainy	15.5	2.7	2.7	4.4
	Dry	15.0	2.4	3.7	3.3
<i>G. maculata</i>	Rainy	16.9	2.4	2.5	3.4
	Dry	15.9	1.8	3.6	2.6
<i>C. mucunoides</i>	Rainy	16.1	2.4	3.5	3.0
	Dry	14.7	1.8	5.2	2.4
<i>M. pudica</i>	Rainy	13.9	2.0	1.6	3.0
	Dry	12.1	2.4	2.7	2.8
<i>C. pubescens</i>	Rainy	14.8	2.5	1.8	3.0
	Dry	12.0	2.4	2.6	2.3
<i>M. Invisa</i>	Rainy	16.7	2.1	2.2	2.0
	Dry	15.1	2.1	3.6	2.2
<i>S. glandiflora</i>	Rainy	15.8	4.5	3.9	3.8
	Dry	11.9	3.8	2.6	3.7
Mean	Rainy	14.7	2.4	3.0	3.0
	Dry	15.7	2.7	2.6	3.2
	Overall	13.8	2.1	3.4	2.8
Deficiency (%)	Rainy	0.0	71.4 ^a	28.6 ^b	14.3 ^a
	Dry	0.0	85.7 ^b	0.0 ^a	42.9 ^b
	Overall	0.0	78.6	14.3	28.6

*Concentration below the critical level is deficient
a, b : significantly different ($p < 0.05$).

es ($p < 0.05$). Percentage deficiency of P, Mg and S in season was 71.4, 28.6 and 14.3%; while in dry season deficiency of P and S was 85.7 and 42.9%, respectively. Within same species of forage, variability of mineral concentration either in dry or rainy season was higher in grass than in legumes. Concentration of Ca and P in the present study was higher in dry season than in rainy season. Although this finding was opposite with the result of Underwood and Suttle³, Minson⁷ suggested that at the fast growing period of plants during rainy season, concentrations of Ca and P tend to be lower and then increase at the slow growing period during dry season. Moreover, leaching of the top soil organic material during rainy season will reduce uptake of minerals by plants.

As shown in Table 3, harvesting location and season had no significant effect on concentration of blood macro minerals in grazing goats. Although the average concentrations of Ca, P, Mg and S both in dry and rainy seasons were above the critical level, several goats observed were deficient of these elements. In overall, the incidence of Ca, P and Mg deficiencies were 4.6, 7.7 and 5.7%, respectively. The percentage deficiency of these elements in the present study were lower compared to the results of Prabowo *et al.*⁴. In their study on grazing cattle in South Sulawesi, the deficiency percentages during rainy and dry season were: Ca 11 and 10%, P 17 and 23% and Mg 13.3 and 2.0%, respectively.

Table 3. Concentration of macro mineral in blood plasma of goats at several regions in West Sumatra during rainy and dry seasons (mg/l).

Region	Season	Ca	P	Mg	S
Critical level:	—	70	40	15	10
Padang	Rainy (30)	100.8±1.9	75.1±2.8	23.5±0.6	90.4±0.4
	Dry (41)	89.5±1.8	71.9±1.9	22.5±0.7	83.4±2.0
Pariaman	Rainy (15)	96.7±1.7	79.7±2.8	24.0±0.6	93.0±2.5
	Dry (25)	83.4±1.3	76.3±2.1	23.1±0.4	93.7±2.7
Solok	Rainy (14)	88.4±3.1	57.8±3.0	26.3±1.4	88.9±4.0
	Dry (12)	96.0±3.2	71.8±4.4	26.3±1.9	79.0±2.6
Sawahlunto	Rainy (28)	96.9±1.0	66.3±1.6	26.7±0.4	91.3±1.3
	Dry (27)	88.1±0.8	61.2±1.1	22.1±0.3	89.1±1.2
Tanah Datar	Rainy (33)	97.5±2.9	81.1±2.2	25.9±0.8	81.4±1.8
	Dry (36)	95.4±3.0	76.4±2.0	24.8±0.8	81.1±1.7
Mean:	Rainy	93.3±2.1	71.8±2.4	24.5±1.1	89.0±2.0
	Dry	96.1±2.1	72.0±2.5	25.3±0.8	85.3±2.0
	Overall	90.5±2.0	71.5±2.3	23.8±0.8	87.1±2.0
Deficiency (%)	—	4.6	7.7	5.7	0.0

Conclusions

From the above results, it could be concluded that Ca was the most abundant element, while P, Mg and S were relatively low in the forages harvested in West Sumatra, Indonesia. The incidence of Ca, P and Mg deficiencies in grazing goats were 4.6, 7.7 and 5.7%, respectively.

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