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IMPROVING COCOA POD QUALITY BY UREA, NaOH AND COCOA POD ASH ALKALI TREATMENTS FOR RUMINANT FEEDSTUFFS



Background

- Dev-ing countries:
 - Limiting of grain and high quality fibre
 - abundant plantation by-product.
 - cocoa seed demand increase
 - release by-product; cocoa pods

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- Cocoa pods
 - late mature plant comp
 - high lignocellulosic
 - low utility
 - low animal performance
 - high excess to environment.

..... Need treatment to improve nutrient value

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- Treatment to improve lignocellulosic
 - physic-, chemi- and biology-cally,
 - Laconi (2000): Simple chemical treatment using urea as effective as biological fermentation to improve cocoa pods quality.

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Objectives

- To study the effect of alkali sources and their level on proximate composition, cell wall constituent and in vitro gas production
- To estimate digestibility and metabolisable energy of treated cocoa pod from gas production and proximate composition
- To found the best alkali source and its level which gave the maximum in vitro digestibility

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METHODS



Treatments

Alkali sources	Level (g/kg cocoa pods)		
Urea	10	20	30
NaOH	2	4	6
CPA	5	10	15

Control: Fresh and fermented cocoa pod without alkali

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Fermentation & sample preparations

- Cocoa pod is cutted to 0.5 cm thick
- alkali agent is added (except control)
- homogenized
- incubated anaerobically for 2 weeks (except fresh control).
- The pods are then dried and milled to pass 0.5 mm screen.

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Parameters

- Proximate compositions (Naumann and Bassler, 1976)
- Van Soest cell wall constituent (Van Soest, 1967)
- In vitro gas production (Menke et al., 1979)
- Estimate DOM and ME

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In vitro gas production (Menke et al., 1979)

- Gas production (ml/200 mg DM)

- Estimate DOM

$$= 14.88 + 0.889 \text{ Gb (ml)} + 0.045 \text{ CP} + 0.065 \text{ ASH}$$

- Estimate ME

$$= 1.242 + 0.146 \text{ Gb (ml)} + 0.007 \text{ CP} + 0.224 \text{ XL}$$

DOM (%), ME (MJ/kg DM); CP (g/kg DM);
ASH (g/kg DM); XL (g/kg DM)



Design

- Block design
- Factors: alkali source
- Level: 11
- Linear model:

$$Y_{ij} = \mu + \alpha_i + \beta_j + \varepsilon_{ij}$$

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RESULTS AND DISCUSSION



Table 1: Proximate analysis of treated cocoa pod

Treats.	Dosis	DM	ASH	CP	XL	CF
	g/kg	%	%	%	%	%
Fresh		87.65	7.88 ^b	9.34 ^b	0.54 ^b	52.30 ^c
Silage	0	89.44	6.19 ^a	8.68 ^{ab}	0.48 ^{ab}	42.09 ^a
CPA	5	87.41	8.34 ^b	7.85 ^{ab}	0.50 ^{ab}	49.59 ^{bc}
	10	87.09	9.32 ^{bc}	7.89 ^{ab}	0.63 ^b	50.83 ^{bc}
	15	86.67	10.39 ^c	7.96 ^{ab}	0.47 ^{ab}	49.32 ^{bc}
NaOH	2	88.88	7.89 ^b	7.49 ^a	0.43 ^{ab}	46.30 ^{ab}
	4	87.32	9.59 ^c	7.33 ^a	0.34 ^{ab}	46.27 ^{ab}
	6	87.16	10.64 ^c	7.33 ^a	0.27 ^a	47.67 ^{bc}
Urea	10	88.88	6.32 ^{ab}	19.36 ^c	0.40 ^{ab}	47.18 ^{bc}
	20	88.06	5.81 ^a	26.51 ^d	0.39 ^{ab}	49.98 ^{bc}
	30	87.96	5.49 ^a	43.24 ^e	0.48 ^{ab}	46.83 ^b

CPA = Cocoa pod ash. The cocoa pod was incubated anaerobically for 2 weeks except for fresh treatment. Different superscript at the same column shows the statistically different at $p < 0.05$



Table 2. Van Soest analysis of treated cocoa pod

Treatments	Dosis	ADF	NDF
	g/kg	%	%
Fresh		69.52 ^b	79.48 ^{ab}
Silage	0	62.15 ^{ab}	82.04 ^{ab}
	5	69.23 ^b	86.81 ^b
CPA	10	67.21 ^b	84.82 ^b
	15	66.60 ^b	80.73 ^{ab}
NaOH	2	64.60 ^b	85.38 ^b
	4	67.10 ^b	80.13 ^{ab}
	6	62.67 ^{ab}	76.70 ^a
Urea	10	61.39 ^{ab}	82.59 ^{ab}
	20	62.13 ^{ab}	81.92 ^{ab}
	30	58.61 ^a	80.07 ^{ab}

CPA = Cocoa pod ash. The cocoa pod was incubated anaerobically for 2 weeks except for fresh treatment. Different superscript at the same column shows the statistically different at $p < 0.05$



Table 3. Gas production, estimated of digestibility and ME

Treat.	Dosis	Gb	OMD	ME
	g/kg	ml/200 mg DM	%	MJ/kg DM
Fresh		9.41 ^c	32.61 ^{ab}	3.40 ^b
Silage	0	11.51 ^d	33.04 ^{ab}	3.64 ^b
CPA	5	8.85 ^{bc}	31.70 ^{ab}	3.20 ^{ab}
	10	8.17 ^b	31.75 ^{ab}	3.13 ^{ab}
	15	9.28 ^{bc}	33.47 ^b	3.26 ^{ab}
NaOH	2	9.68 ^c	31.98 ^{ab}	3.28 ^b
	4	8.05 ^b	31.57 ^a	3.01 ^a
	6	9.08 ^{bc}	33.17 ^{ab}	3.14 ^{ab}
Urea	10	12.07 ^d	38.43 ^c	4.45 ^c
	20	12.99 ^d	42.13 ^d	5.08 ^d
	30	4.86 ^a	42.07 ^d	5.06 ^d

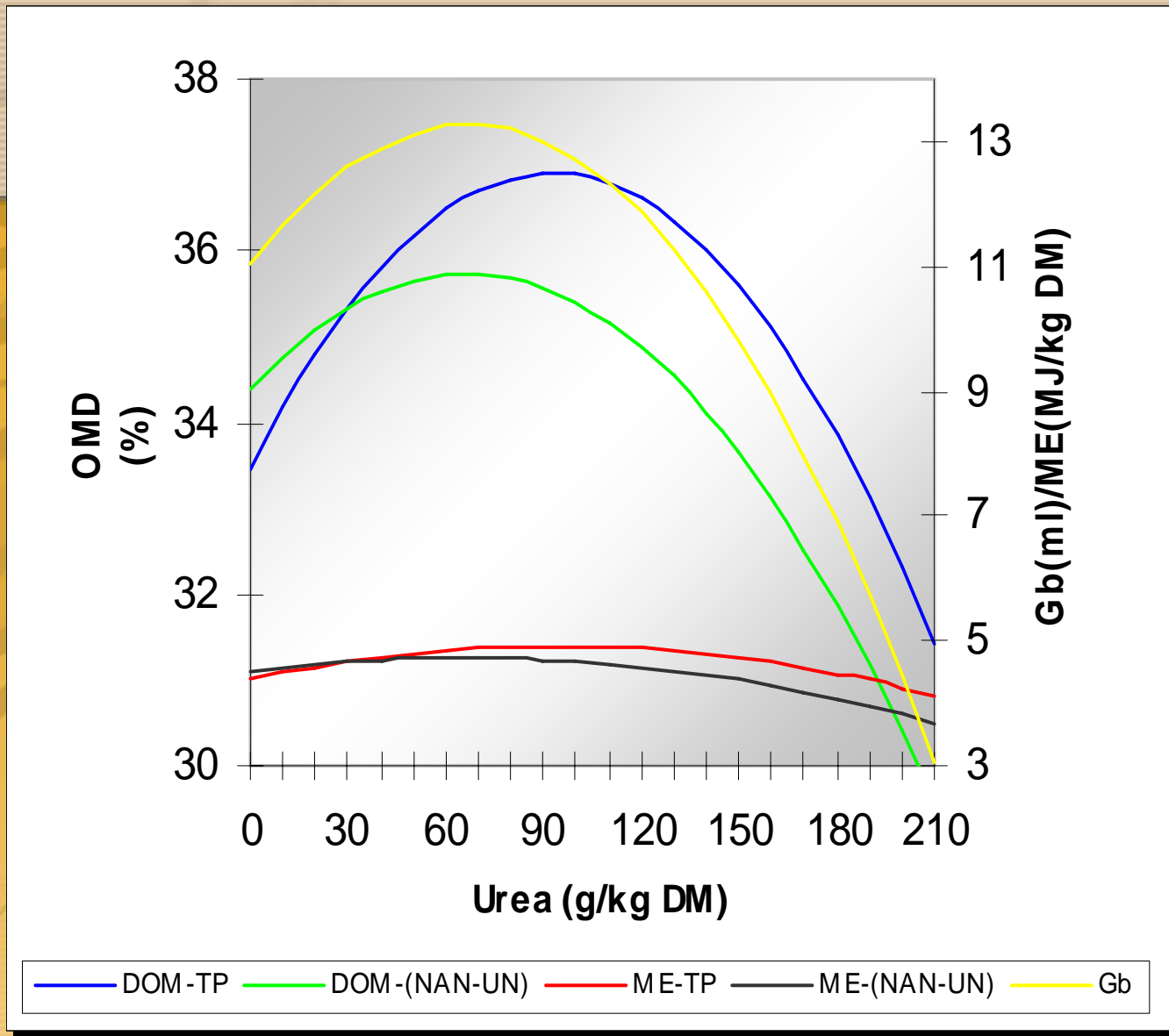
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Response of OMD and ME on urea applications

No	Formula	Peak	n	r ²	F
	Based on Gb	g/kg DM			
1	$Gb = 11.0306 + 0.067U - 0.0005U^2$	67	12	0.86	0.000
	Based on %TP (TP-N x 6.25)				
2	$OMD = 33.4659 + 0.0743 U - 0.0004 U^2$	93	12	0.84	0.000
3	$ME = 4.3889 + 0.0113 U - 0.00006 U^2$	94	12	0.84	0.000
	Based on (NAN – UR-N) x 6.25				
4	$OMD = 34.3873 + 0.0401 U - 0.0003 U^2$	67	12	0.75	0.000
5	$ME = 4.5191 + 0.0065 U - 0.00005 U^2$	65	12	0.72	0.000

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Conclusion

- Urea is the most suitable alkali source for cocoa pod quality improvement
- On local absence of the alkali source, the improvement quality of cocoa pod with silage treatment is also recommended
- The (NAN-UR) value is suggested to be the nearest evaluation of the real protein value of urea treated cocoa pods.
- The optimum level of urea was 67 g/kg DM cocoa pods.

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