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Title: Effect of Dietary Levels of Cooked *Lablab purpureus* Beans on the Performance of Broiler Chickens

Author: F.O. Abeke, S.O. Ogundipe, A.A. Sekoni, I.I. Dafwang, I.A. Adeyinka, O.O. Oni and A. Abeke

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Abstract: A study was conducted to determine the response of broiler starter and finisher chicks to dietary levels of *Lablab purpureus* beans processed by boiling in water for 30 min at 100°C. For both the starter and the finisher phases, seven isonitrogenous diets containing 23.78% crude protein for the starter and 20.91% crude protein for the finisher were formulated to contain lablab seed meal at 0.0, 5.0, 10.0, 15.0, 20.0, 25.0 and 30.0% levels respectively. Diet 1, in each phase had no lablab and served as the control. Each dietary treatment for the starter and the finisher phases was replicated three times in a completely randomized design. There were 25 birds per replicate. Feed and water were given *ad libitum*. The experiment lasted from 0 to 4 weeks for the starter phase and from 5 to 8 weeks for the finisher phase. Results obtained for the starter phase shows significant ($p<0.05$) depression in final weight, weight gain, feed intake, feed efficiency and feed-gain ratio. These parameters decreased as the level of lablab seeds in the diets increased. However, feed cost (N/kg feed and N/bird) were significantly ($p<0.05$) reduced as the level of lablab seed meal increased in the starter diets. The results obtained for the finisher phase also showed a similar trend. While there were significant ($p<0.05$) decreases in final weight, weight gain, feed intake and feed efficiency as the level of lablab seed meal increased in the diets, feed cost (N/kg feed and N/bird) were significantly ($p<0.05$) lowered. Parameters measured for carcass analysis such as live weight and weights of the breast, thigh, wing, neck, legs and head showed a significant ($p<0.05$) decrease as the dietary levels of lablab seed meal increased. The PCV, Hb and the TP status of the blood indicated significant ($p<0.05$) decreases as the levels of lablab in the diets increased. However, *Lablab purpureus* beans can be included up to 5% level in broiler starter and up to 10% level in broiler finisher diets without any adverse effect on the performance of the birds.

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Lablab purpureus beans, carcass, haematological parameter, broilers, antinutritional factors and dietary levels

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