

Prosobis juliflora pod flour as an unconventional concentrate feed for cattle

Prosobis juliflora pods are available in plenty in the wastelands of Thoothukudi district which can be used as an unconventional concentrate feed for cattle.

Prosobis juliflora tree stand	Prosobis pods and Pod flour	Feeding the cattle with pod flour
		

The nutritive value of Prosobis juliflora pods

Sl.no	Nutrient	Value in %
1	Moisture	9.85
2	Crude protein	10.95
3	Crude fiber	4.51
4	Ether extract	3.08
5	Total acid	9.85
6	Calcium	0.1
7	Phosphorus	0.2
8	Salt	0.2
9	Silica	0.75

A trial has been conducted by KVK and concluded that prosobis juliflora can replace wheat bran and pearl millet in the lactating dairy cattle concentrate mixture without affecting the milk yield. It reduces the concentrate feed cost by one rupee per kg.

Procedure for making pod flour

- Collect the fully ripened prosobis juliflora pods directly from the trees, avoid collecting black coloured fungal infected pods fallen down from the trees.
- Make it into pieces and dry it under sun for 2-3 days to bring down the moisture content
- Grind the sun dried pods into fine powder in the grinder mill
- Mix the pod flour into the cattle concentrate ration and use it within 30 to 60 days
- The dried pods can be stored in plastic bags for upto 4-6 months but it should be sundried immediately before grinding.