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# SOON SOON OILMILLS TECHNICAL BULLETIN

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## Benefits of Soon Soon Meat Goat Pellet In Meat Goat Production



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# **Benefits of Soon Soon Meat Goat Pellet**

## **Introduction**

Traditionally, local goats (Kambing Katjang) are raised free ranch with a little supplemental feeding with cut grass or leaves harvested from the surrounding small holder estates. Very rarely are these goats fed compound feeds. These hardy kambing katjang thrive quite well on this subsistence farming system although it takes a long time to reach slaughter weight.

With the introduction of meat type cross breed goats recently, this subsistence farming system does not work any more. These animals cannot thrive on scavenging alone and there is a limitation to supply of roughages without infringing the right of the neighboring estates for cut grass and harvest of leaves. Because of this, the farmers began to augment the scarce roughage with self-mix compound feeds consisting of agriculture by-products like palm kernel cake, soybean curd residue, peanut husks etc. Very often, these self-mix feeds are compounded based on by-products availabilities rather than nutrient balance, as a result, the performance of these cross-bred high performance animals fail to reach its genetic potential.

Soon Soon Meat Goat Feed in pelleted form is developed for high performance meat type cross bred goats. It is compounded with high quality feed ingredients and supplemented with correct ratio of macro and micro mineral, vitamins and protein.

Recommended feeding rate is 2 – 3% of the body weight of the animals. For optimum performance, the balance of the dry matter requirement must be met by feeding roughages in the form of cut grass or leaves like palm fronds.

## **Soon Soon Goat Pellet vs Self-mix feed**

A comparative study was conducted in a commercial goat farm in Bukit Mertajam in 2006. Meat goats of Boer –cross and Jamnapari cross with average body weight ranging from 15 to 22kg were used to compare the efficacy of these 2 feeds. Each feeding group was allocated equal number of males and females.

Nutrient content is shown in table 1 while that of self-mix feed was unknown, however, raw materials used included soybean hull, pea skin, wheat pollard, molasses and a cheap compound feed of unknown origin.

**Table 1.** Nutrient content of Soon Soon meat goat pellet

Moisture	13.0 % max
Protein	12.5 % min
TDN	68 % min
Calcium	0.6 % min
Phosphorous	0.4 % min
Crude fiber	20.0 % max

Both groups of goats were allowed to adapt to the new feeds for 2 weeks. Thereafter, the goats continued to be fed the same feed supplemented with relevant quantities of roughage for 1 months during which time performance data were recorded. Feeding of Soon Soon Goat Pellet and self-mix feeds were maintained at 2 – 3 % of the body weights of the goats under observation.

After the feeding period of 1 month, the following observations were recorded (Table 2)

**Table 2.** Performance record

Fed with Soon Soon Meat Goat Feed						
Breed	Sex	Age	Initial Body weight /kg	ADG /g	Body condition score	Skin coat
Boer-cross	Male	3 months	15.5	161	3	Shining, smooth
Boer-cross	Male	4 months	20.0	107	3	Shining smooth
Boers cross	Female	4 months	21.5	143	3	Shining, smooth
Jamnapari-cross	Male	4 months	19.0	143	3	Shining, smooth
Average				138.5	3	Shining, smooth
Fed with farmer self-mixed feed						
Breed	Sex	Age	Initial Body weight /kg	ADG /g	Body condition score	Skin coat
Boer-cross	Male	4 months	22.0	71	2.5	Rough, stringy
Boer-cross	Male	3 months	17.0	196	2.5	Rough, stringy
Boer-cross	Female	3 months	15.0	107	2.5	Rough, stringy
Jamnapari-cross	Male	3 months	17.0	89.3	2.0	Rough, stringy
Average				115.8	2.5	Rough, stringy

#### Observations:

1. Average daily gain of goats fed Soon Soon Goat Pellets were 19.6 % higher than those given self-mix feed, 138.5g versus 115g.
2. Body condition were better in goats given Soon Soon Goat Pellets. Hair coat was shiny and smooth in the Soon Soon group whereas it was rough and stringy in group given self-mix feed.
3. General health status of goats on Soon Soon Goat Pellet was better, with no bloating, diarrhea and soft stool observed. Because of this, medication cost was also reduced.
4. Other observation made during the data collection included:
  - Unlike self-mix feed which is wet and messy, Soon Soon Goat Pellet was easy and clean to handle.
  - No mixing required, thus less time spent on producing feed and more time can be spent taking care of the animals
  - Soon Soon Goat Pellet is already fortified with mineral and vitamins, thus no dosing of micro ingredients is required.