



# Comparative effect of the incorporation of *Moringa oleifera* and *Carica papaya* leaf powder into diet on coccidiosis and growth in rabbits in Burkina Faso

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## ABSTRACT

**Objective:** This study compared the effects of incorporating *Moringa oleifera* (Moringa) and *Carica papaya* (Papaya) leaf powders into rabbit feed on their growth and coccidiosis control in Burkina Faso.

**Methodology and Results:** The study was conducted at the Animal Production and Health Research Laboratory of the Saria Research Station. The study involved 28 weaned rabbits divided into seven groups, each receiving different rations with varying percentages of *Moringa oleifera* and *Carica papaya* leaf powder (5%, 10%, and 15%). The study revealed a significant reduction in the excretion of coccidiosis oocysts in rabbits fed *Moringa oleifera* ( $750 \pm 687.38$ ) and *Carica papaya* ( $16.667 \pm 28.87$ ) leaf powder compared to the control group ( $6300 \pm 2338.8$ ). The incorporation of moringa and papaya leaf powders had no negative effect on the weight gain of rabbits. The group fed 15% Moringa showed the highest weight gain ( $751 \pm 206.93$  g), indicating a positive impact on growth performance.

**Conclusions and application of findings:** The incorporation of *Moringa oleifera* and *Carica papaya* leaf powders into rabbit feed significantly reduced coccidia oocyst excretion and improved growth performance without adverse effects. Therefore, we recommend that farmers incorporate 15% *Moringa oleifera* or *Carica papaya* leaves into rabbit diets. This incorporation rate could be a natural alternative for improving rabbit productivity and health.

**Keywords:** Feeding, coccidiosis, nutraceutical, growth.