

## **Nutritional potential of post extraction residues and silage from leaves of five cassava varieties as feed for ruminants**

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### **Abstract**

The nutritional potential of post extraction residues and silage from leaves of five local cassava varieties cultivated in south west Nigeria namely Ilaro, Oko-iyawo, Mafamipa, Odongbo, Idileru as feed for ruminants, was evaluated using chemical composition and in - vitro dry matter digestibility as indices. Chemical composition of the fresh leaves, residues and silage differed ( $P < 0.05$ ) somewhat across varieties. Results indicated that processing reduced ( $P < 0.05$ ) the inherent nutrients of cassava leaf residues produced after the extraction of protein concentrate from cassava leaves with crude protein (CP) content ranging from 8.08% in Ilaro to 10.32% in Odongbo, respectively, while the hydrocyanic content (mg/100g) reduced ( $P < 0.05$ ) and ranged from 12.88 in Mafamipa to 21.13 in Ilaro. The DM, CP and HCN contents of the cassava leaf silage decreased ( $P < 0.05$ ) slightly compared to the fresh leaves across varieties. The in - vitro dry matter digestibility of the leaf residues and silage also differed ( $P < 0.05$ ) among varieties ranging from 25.00% to 53.33% in Idileru and Odongbo, respectively. It was therefore concluded that leaf residues from the extraction of protein concentrate as well as leaf silage of the studied cassava varieties has a potential as maintenance ration or as supplements to high quality forage and can help in alleviating dry season feed shortage experienced in ruminant production.

**Keywords:** Cassava leaf, post extraction residue, silage, ruminant, chemical composition, in-vitro digestibility

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**Target Audience:** Ruminant farmers, Scientists and Extension agent