CONSUMPTION AND DIGESTABILITY OF NUTRIENTS IN MALE THIN-TAILED SHEEP FATTING RATINGS WITH SUPPLEMENTATION OF CORN STARCH AND SEAWEED (*Sargassum sp.*) AS A SUBSTITUTE TO POLLARD BRANDS

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to determine the effect of the combination of corn starch and Sargassum sp. on the consumption and digestibility of nutrients for fattening male thin-tailed sheep. The study used 12 male thin-tailed sheep with an average age of 7 to 9 months and an initial body weight of ± 22 kg. The feed used was divided into two treatments with a forage ratio and concentrate of 40:60. The forage used in the study was "odot" grass (Pennisetum purpureum cv. Mott). The ration treatment with pollard bran (P1) had a crude protein (PK) content of 13.21% and a total digestible nutrient (TDN) of 77.8%. In comparison, the ration treatment with a combination of corn starch and Sargassum sp. (P2) has a PK content of 10.96% and a TDN of 73.8%. The study focused on observing the consumption and digestibility of nutrients using in vivo methods. The feed treatment lasted for 56 days, including the total collection of 7 days, with each treatment using six cattle. The method of analysis in this study used an independent T-test. The results showed that the P2 ration treatment was not significantly different from the consumption of dry matter (DM), organic matter (OM), and consumption of crude fibre (CF). Consumption of crude protein (CP), consumption of ether extract (EE), and consumption of extracts without nitrogen (NFE) in treatment P2 showed lower results ($P<0.05$) compared to ration treatment P1. The P2 ration treatment did not show significant differences in the dry matter digestibility coefficient (DMD), the organic matter digestibility coefficient (OMD), and the digestibility coefficient of the extract without nitrogen (DNFE). PK digestibility (CPD), EE digestibility (EED), and TDN values in P2 treatment showed significant results, namely lower ($P>0.05$) compared to the P1 ration treatment. In contrast, the SK digestibility coefficient (CFD) was higher ($P< 0.05$) compared to P1. The PBBH value showed that the results were not significantly different. The combined feed ration of corn starch and Sargassum sp. can replace pollard bran as a constituent of thin-tailed sheep fattening feed.

(Keywords: Consumption, Corn starch, Digestibility, Thin-tailed sheep, *Sargassum* sp.)