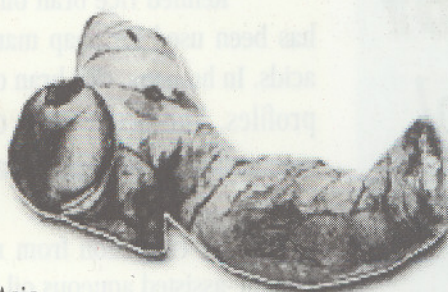


A potential natural antioxidant for Meat

The use of synthetic antioxidants has been found unsuitable for human health safety. Increasing demand for natural antioxidants has led to exploring the utility of gingers which are commonly used in traditional medicines and also for spices. Galangal (*Alpinia galanga* Willd.) rhizome, closely related to the ginger family, is commonly used in stir-fries, curries and soups of



South East Asia.

On studying effectiveness of Galangal extract (10%) in inhibiting/minimizing lipid oxidation in raw and cooked beef, it has been found as effective as α -tocopherol at 0.10% and butylated

hydroxytoluene (BHT) at 0.02 per cent. Though a much higher concentration of galangal extract has been found effective it is a natural food ingredient without any known

toxic effects. Thus, in future galangal extract may be a possible natural antioxidant source for meat and meat products (Cheah & Hasim, *J Sci Food Agric*, 2000, 80, 1565).

Water soaked Tamarind seeds could be used in piglets diet

The reduction in the cost of feed has become essential for keeping livestock. The utilization of waste materials from various industries as animal feed is also advocated, for the purpose of disposal of waste material and providing nutritious feed to lactating animals.

Tamarind seeds are available as byproduct after removing pulp from tamarind fruits. It is reported that nearly 1.40 lakh tonnes of tamarind seeds are available in South India alone. The tamarind kernel has higher protein content than barley, oats and maize and the content of total carbohydrates and minerals compares favourably with those of oats and grams. Therefore, the effect of inclusion of water soaked tamarind seed in the diet of crossbred (IWY x Desi) gilts (young female swine) was studied.

The tamarind seed, consisting of small broken pieces and ground through a 6.25 mm screen were soaked in water (1:4) overnight. After thorough washing (to reduce tannin content) of seed gilts were fed 1.25 kg of standard finisher ration + 0.75 kg of tamarind seed. The data on digestibility of organic matter indicated that it is higher in ration containing soaked tamarind seed in place of maize than the standard finisher ration. It has also been found that the cost of feed/piglet weaned is lower by Rs 74.40. Therefore overnight water soaked tamarind seed can replace maize in the diets of pregnant crossbred gilts economically (Ravi *et al*, *Indian J Anim Nutr*, 2000, 17, 227).

Better Rabbit carcass production

Non-vegetarians are moving towards vegetarian diet but still they prefer rabbit meat because it contains less cholesterol (50 index) and low calorie (795). It is also most tender among other meats. To meet the demand various studies are being done by researchers. ICAR Research complex for NEH Region Jharpani team has studied the effect of feeding *Morus alba* Linn. (Mulberry) leaves on carcass characteristics of rabbits. The findings reveal that *Morus alba* leaves can be fed (*ad libitum*) with 60% concentrate diet to rabbits for better carcass production without any adverse effect and thereby reducing the feed cost (Rohilla & Bujarbaruah, *Indian Vet J*, 2001, 78, 619-621).

