

Project title	<i>Ailanthus excelsa</i> : as a potential of fodder in terms of nutritive value and qualitative assessment of other secondary compounds for alternate protein.
Principal Investigator	Smt. R. Sumathi
Co-Investigators	Dr. S. Murugesan Dr. N. Senthilkumar
Project duration (Start & End)	3 years: 2016-2019
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screening of potential seed source of <i>Ailanthus excelsa</i> assemblage as a fodder tree species based on the nutritive factors • Seasonal variation of protein pattern (early summer and winter), and chemical composition (protein, quassinoids, alkaloids, triterpenoids, flavonoids and steroids) to assess the nutritional value. • Evaluation of selected tree fodders based on <i>in vitro</i> dry matter digestibility (IVDMD).
Summary/Achievements	<p><i>Ailanthus excelsa</i> Roxb. is a fast growing multipurpose indigenous tree species for safety match industry in Tamilnadu. Apart from the wood, the leaf is also an excellent source of quality protein which is superior to soya bean. There is a tremendous scope to develop value added products for animal feed, since the tree species has already used as fodder in Rajasthan and Gujarat. Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB), Coimbatore has <i>A. excelsa</i> germplasm assemblage. The proximate analysis of the leaves of <i>A. excelsa</i> leaves can be considered as the potential fodder tree are as a good source of crude protein, which may be considered as cattle feed. <i>In Vitro</i> Dry Matter Digestibility (IVDMD) analysis of selected accessions showed digestibility is greater than 50% and Metabolizable Energy (ME) and Total Digestible Nutrients (TDN) which are found promising in all the accessions and hence the selected accessions of <i>A. excelsa</i> leaves may be promoted exclusive for animal fodder.</p>
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