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Importance and Attribute of Probiotics in Small Ruminant's Nutrition and Health

Olufayo, O. O.[✉], **Irivboje, O. A.**

Department of Agricultural Technology, The Federal Polytechnic Ilaro, Nigeria

✉omobola.olufayo@federalpolyilaro.edu.ng

Abstract

A major part of animal production is feed and has obtained diverse interest to enhance the growth of animals. Several researches done over time demonstrated feed utilization to have become better by combining different feed additives in the right proportion. Globally utilized among many are antibiotics which serve as growth promoters in the diets of livestock over a period. An attempt to find alternative feed additives has been increased. Among discovered possibilities which had proved unharmed to the animals are probiotics. Probiotics utilization makes productivity better, immunity and animal health of small ruminant nutrition. Probiotics make growth performances better through improving feed conversion rate, ecosystem of microbial rumen and digestibility of nutrient. Volatile fatty acid production is been raised by probiotics, balance of rumen pH and excite lactic acid utilizing protozoa amounting in an upward effective rumen function. In addition, increased production of milk, lowered occurrence of neonatal diarrhea and death had been reported with the use of probiotics. Nevertheless, this paper discusses the importance and role probiotics play as feed additives on growth performance and health of small ruminant.

Keywords: feed utilization, immunity, probiotics, productivity, small ruminant,,

INTRODUCTION

Prebiotics, antibiotics and probiotics investigated so far had been to change the characteristics of fermentation in the rumen, microbial ecosystem and the intestinal tract of livestock. Taking the advantage of rumen microbial ecosystem for improving feed utilization, production of animals and health, including safety and quality of food products from ruminants can be obtained through hastening of required fermentation, reducing chaos in the rumen with purging out of pathogens (Seo et al., 2010). Feed additives as growth promoting antibiotics has been used over time in animal production to bring about improvement of feed consumption, boost production and tame the spread of infections. Meanwhile, antimicrobial drugs usage in livestock has numerous limitations among which are build-up of resistance to bacterial antibiotics in animals and humans, transfer of antibiotic residues into the food chain (Chen et al., 2005) and removing numerous microorganisms that are useful; hence, the need to look for other good sources that serve the same purpose.

Identified probable alternative sources are symbiotic, prebiotics and probiotics. Globally, utilized feed additives in the production of animals presently are probiotics, in which the aim of their usage is to make growth performance better and prevention of disease by retaining healthy gastrointestinal condition and function (Chaucheyras-Durand, Walker, & Bach, 2008; Mountzouris, Balaskas, Xanthakos, Tzivinikou, & Fegeros, 2009). Probiotics helped the gut micro-biota that existed within the body. Probiotics improve microbial ecosystem of the rumen (Musa et al. 2009), absorption of nutrient and digestibility and feed conversion rate resulting in improved animal performance.

Probiotics have been regarded as an antagonistic action to pathogens for adhesion sites and nutritional growth factors, which can lower the occurrence of infections in the intestine (Casas & Dobrogosz, 2000) and renew gut micro-flora in cases of diarrhea (Musa, Wu, Zhu, Seri, & Zhu, 2009). Probiotics have also brought about immunity of the animal through stimulation of immune-globulins, macrophages, cells natural killer and synthesis of cytokines. The aim of this paper majorly focuses on the relevance and

attributes of probiotics in small ruminant's nutrition describing the effects of probiotic supplementation on animal defensive abilities, rumen microbial ecosystem, nutrient digestion, growth performance, carcass characteristics and intestinal micro-flora.

Definition of Probiotics

Live microorganisms which can be ingested through fermented food supplements, promote a healthy stability of bacteria within the gut connected to different benefits derivable of health like function of the immune system, loss of weight and digestion are called Probiotics (Seo et al., 2010).

Bio-preparations containing metabolites of balanced autochthonous microbes which might maximize colonization and consisting of gut micro-flora in humans and animals thus having a backing effect on processes of digestion and immunity of hosts are referred to as probiotics (Antunovic et al., 2005).

Simon, Jadamus, and Vahjen, (2001) defined probiotics as non-pathogenic microorganisms when consumed result in desired influence on animal physiology, thus, restoring and maintaining the stability of the microorganisms useful in relation to ailment and boost growth of young animals.

Probiotics are operational microorganisms which when given in correct quantity can change the micro-flora of the host digestive tract bringing about enhanced production and health. Many microbial strains mostly bacteria (non-lactic acid and lactic acid), yeasts or fungi are appraised as probiotics. Species for prospective use were distinguished as usual natives of the pick-out varieties with the capability to cling as well as populate gut epithelial cells (Musa et al., 2009). Besides, species of probiotic are not engaged at the gastrointestinal tract's superior chunk. Such animals are steady genetically with ability to manufacture germicide materials which alter the duodenal flora in the approval of a healthier constitution thus, prompt complete result that is favourable to the host fitness (Parvez, Malik, Ah Kang, & Kim, 2006).

Route Administration of Probiotics:

Many route of probiotic administration exist which include the vagina, skin, oral cavity and intestines. In ruminants, probiotics are usually giving orally.

Different kinds and Modes of Action of Probiotics

Bacterial Probiotics

The two genus bacterial probiotics frequently used are Bifidobacteria and lactobacilli. Diver bacterial probiotic species can aggressively debar pathogenic bacteria through population and fix to the gut membrane, which could be for nutrients accordingly stopping population by unfavourable pathogens (Tripathi and Karim, 2010). Schierack et al., 2009 reported that probiotics of bacterial nature aggravate development of disease causing organisms through the manufacture of many hampering materials (bacteriocins, hydrogen peroxides and organic acids) for not only pathogenic bacteria of Gram-negative and Gram-positive. Antibiotic metabolites such as acidolin, lactobacillin, lactocidin and acidophillin are been manufactured by numerous lactobacilli resulting to a hampering scheme in opposition to Bacillus, Staphylococcus, Salmonella, Shigella, Pseudomonas, *Escherichia coli* and Vibrio strain. Probiotic bacteria can use an immune modulatory effect through provocation of the immune structure, the renewal of intestinal membrane, boosting the scheme of macrophages and regular destroyer cells. They can also control anti- and pro-inflammatory cytokine manufacturing (Vondruskova, Slamova, Trckova, Zraly, & Pavlik, 2010).

Yeast Probiotics

Yeast cultures' modes of action suggested to describing its consequences on ruminant production and rumen fermentation. Regulation of rumen pH, total volatile fatty acids shoot-up and lowering accumulation of ammonia are results gotten after feeding yeast (Bakr et al., 2015). Increased bacterial population is intermediate to the yeast operation in enhancing the capacity of ruminant. Yeasts restore development and enzymatic scheme of cellulolytic bacteria and enhance microbial protein synthesis and fibre digestibility. Yeast supplementation lowers the redox inherent that produces safer conditions for the development of

severe anaerobic microorganisms, manufactures particular elements (vitamin B12 or branched chain fatty acids), which enhance the development and operation of lactic acid-utilising rumen bacterium *Selenomonas ruminantium*, microbial biomass synthesis in the rumen and lowers rumen acidosis. Exceeding schemes of yeast result in quickening of fermentation of the rumen and donate to enhanced digestibility and utilization of feed (Chaucheyras-Durand et al., 2008).

Ways by which probiotics exert an effect on host animals are: (i) Manufacturing of numerous antimicrobial substances and hampering metabolites like antibiotics, bacteriocins, organic acids and diacetyl.

(ii) Host immune modulation.
(iii) Contesting with the pathogen for adhesion areas.
(iv) Stimulation and manufacturing of enzymes.
(v) Purification and metabolism of unpleasant compounds.
(vi) Nutrients building such as vitamins, amino acids in the host animal and digestive tract.

Importance of probiotics

Good physical condition attributes are associated with animal and human probiotic intake. Probiotic bacteria thrive in adequate numbers in the product that their physical and hereditary stability during storage of the product be secured and that all of their resources vital for demonstrating their fitness benefits after ingestion be conserved during manufacturing and storage of the product. Viable microorganisms preparation that is ingested by human and animals with the intention of enhancing potential effects by quantitatively and qualitatively manipulating their immune status and gut micro-flora (Fuller, 2004).

Nutritional importance

Process in which a microorganism changes food into other products usually through the manufacturing of ethanol, lactic acid and other metabolic end-products is known as fermentation. Probiotic bacteria are available majorly in dairy products and fermented foods which play a predominant function as hosts of probiotics. These foods are fitted for encouraging the positive health image of probiotics for many reasons: fermented foods and dairy products in particular have a positive health image; consumers are well known with the fact that fermented foods contain living microorganisms (bacteria); probiotics used as starter organisms linked together the positive likeness of fermentation and probiotic culture (Knut, 2001). Lactic acid producing bacteria are operational categories of non-pathogenic, non-toxigenic, Gram-positive, fermentative bacteria that are associated with the manufacturing of lactic acid from carbohydrates, making them useful for food fermentation. Species of Lactobacillus, Lactococcus, and Streptococcus, Thermophilus are included in this group (Guarner, Aamir, Khan, Ram, & Alfred, 2008). Probiotics are intended to assist the body's naturally occurring gut micro-biota. The consumption of probiotics has been associated with promoting effects on the immune system such as improved disease resistance and lowered the risk of hypersensitive reactions (Danut, Mocanu, Rotaru, Vasile, & Botez, 2009). Probiotic in the organism of a good conditioned animal excite non-specific immune response and raise the immune defense system.

Enhancing immune system

The strongest direct observation proof for probiotics is with their use in raising gut health and exciting immune function (Guarner et al., 2008). At present, it is believed that there is some connection through the capability of strain to translocate and the potency to be immunogenic (Amel et al., 2014). The advancement of the immune system may be by three separate styles: enhanced macrophage activity interruption and enhanced ability to phagocytose microorganisms; greater production of antibodies commonly of IgG and IgM categorise and interferon (a nonspecific antiviral agent) and increased local antigens at mucosal surfaces such as the gut wall, commonly IgA (Amiya, Rautray, Patra, Sardar, & Sahoo, 2011). Trigger local macrophages to increase antigen presentation to B lymphocytes and increase secretory immunoglobulin A (IgA) production both locally and systemically, modulate cytokine analysis and digest food and contend for nutrients with pathogens, modify local pH to make unfavourable local environment for pathogens, create bacteriocins to prevent pathogens, to search for superoxide radicals, excite epithelial mucin making, raise intestinal

mole mapping. Intake of beneficial bacteria such as *L. acidophilus* and *L. casei* reinforces intestinal mucous membrane immunity (mucosal immunity) in addition to the body's global immunity (systemic immunity). Probiotics order through the installation of reoccurring T-cells that subdue inflammation-inducing effectors cells. Probiotics have the possible characteristics to act together with the mucosal immune system that does not elicit an inflammation inducing unconditioned reaction and the incidental installation of master inflammatory cytokines (Amiya et al., 2011). The non-pathogenical strain *Escherichia coli* was effective in Crohn's disease upkeep therapy. This microorganism could stick to intestinal epithelial cells in addition to its inhibitory outcome ascertained against pathogenic strains left alone from patients with the disease (Boaventura, Rafael, Ana, Jacques, & Luis, 2012). Inflammatory bowel diseases such as pouchitis and Crohn's disease as well as irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) may be caused by modifications in the gut flora including infection.

Lowering Inflammation and Irritable Bowel Syndrome

Intestinal microscopic plants play a germane role in inflammatory status in the gut and possibly probiotics rectify such status through modulation of the micro-flora (Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), 2001). Inflammatory bowel diseases (IBS) are diseases distinguished by abdominal pain, diarrhea, constipation and mucus synthesizing along with faeces (Vahedi, Ansari, Nasseri, & Jafari, 2010). Although several physiopathology factors have been related to the determinant of this disease, in the last years, researchers have carefully weighed feed intolerance and instability of intestinal micro-biota as the main factors accountable for symptoms of the irritable bowel syndrome. Probiotics are a good substitute for the intervention of this syndrome. In animal nutrition, microorganisms used as probiotics are connected with a shown efficacy on the intestine micro-flora. Administering probiotic species separately and together significantly enhanced feed intake, daily weight gain, feed conversion rate and total body weight in chickens, pigs, sheep, goats, cattle and equine (Samli, Senkoylu, Koc, Kanter & Agma, 2007).

Veterinary Importance of Probiotics

Many microbes used as probiotics in animals are unharmed, although some have state of difficulty specially the enterococci determinants and *Bacillus cereus* group that make enterotoxins and an emetic toxin (Arturo, Maria, & Maria, 2006). The specific observation for safety appraisal is targeted on the existence of communicable antibiotic reaction markers and the possibility for the creation of damaging metabolites. Thus the appealing components of probiotics include the capability to lower antibiotic use, the high index of safety and the public's positive perceptions about natural or substitute therapies (Strompfova, Marcinakova, Simonva, Bogovic, & Laukova, 2006). The major presently used tests for detailed inspection of probiotic species are resistance to gastric acidity and gall acid, symphysis to gut epithelial tissue, antimicrobial activity against potentially pathogenic bacteria and ability to change immune responses (Musa et al., 2009).

Danger Related to Probiotic's Usage

Safety measures should be taken to guard animals and the environment from potentially harmful micro-organisms despite the fact that micro-organisms used as probiotics in animal feed are comparatively unharmed. Dangers related to probiotic's usage in animal feed include (FAO 2001):

i. Production of toxins by the micro-organisms contained in probiotics which exert toxic effects in the host.
ii. Hyper-stimulation of the immune system in susceptible hosts.
iii. Transfer of antibiotic resistance from probiotics to other pathogenic micro-organisms.
iv. Release of infectious micro-organisms to the environment from the animal production system
v. Infection (gastro-intestinal or systemic) of the animal fed the probiotics.

Influence of Probiotics on Digestion

Rumen Digestion

Probiotics have been made known to enhance nutrient digestibility, degradation of fibre and ruminal digestion which can be due to improving development, rumen bacteria cellulolytic activity and suppression of ruminal acidosis through

stabilising of the volatile fatty acids ratios in the rumen. Whitley, Cazac, Rude, Jackson-O'Brien, and Parveen, (2009) reported that given a diet with probiotics resulted in improved clear dry matter digestibility (DM), crude protein (CP), neutral detergent fibre (NDF) and acid detergent fibre (ADF) in meat. Ruminal digestion to yeast feeding in ruminants brings about favourable responses which include increased dry matter intake and improved organic matter degradation. However, Soren, Tripathi, Bhatt, and Karim, (2013) reported that feeding *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* or a combination of *S. cerevisiae* and *Lactobacillus sporogenes* to lambs had no effect on dry matter intake and digestibility of dry matter, organic matter and neutral detergent fibre. Fermentation activities of bacteria, particularly of cellulolytic species have been made known to increase by probiotic supplementation resulting in improvement in fibre digestibility (El-Waziry & Ibrahim, 2007).

Rumen Volatile Fatty Acids

Increased volatile fatty acids production resulted from the effects of probiotics on rumen volatile fatty acids of small ruminants and concentration in yeast-supplemented animals. This may be due to decreased methane production and resultant energy loss saving. Nevertheless, other studies recorded a significant reduction in ruminal volatile fatty acids formation of growing lambs or adult goats administered probiotic supplemented diets (Tripathi & Karim, 2011). However, some researchers have found no effect of probiotic feed additives in total volatile fatty acid concentrations in the rumen (Soren et al., 2013).

Rumen Protozoa

A variant of probiotics and protozoan strains in the rumen ascertain the influence of probiotics on rumen protozoa, which consequently varies. Dietary supplementation of rams with *S. cerevisiae* (YS), sodium bicarbonate (BC), or their combination did not result in modifications of the contents of the numerous protozoa although there was a disposition for *Epidinium spp*. to boost yeast culture treatments (Galip, 2006). Brossard, Chaucheyras-Durand, Michalet-Doreau, & Martin, (2006) reported enhanced development of protozoa population in the rumen of sheep supplemented with live yeasts. Kowalik, Michałowski, Pająk, Taciak, & Zalewska, (2011) also observed that feeding of live yeast or their metabolites to adult female goats resulted in -an eight-fold reduction in the number of protozoa of the genus Isotricha. Yeast metabolite supplementation increased the population of protozoa and the number of *Diplodinium spp*. from 2.5×10^4 to 5.8×10^4 while feeding of live yeast resulted in a significant lowering of total protozoan populations but an increase in populations of *Diplodinium spp*. It has also been confirmed that individual yeast cultures increased but mixed yeast culture resulted in reduced total ciliate protozoa, therefore contributing to fibre digestibility improvement in sheep and goats given yeast culture (Tripathi & Karim, 2011).

Rumen pH

Lower rumen pH after supplementation with *Saccharomyces uvarum* (ATCC9080; SU) to developing lambs have been reported byTripathi and Karim (2011). Other researchers have pointed out that the dietary consumption of probiotics balanced rumen pH resulting to efficient rumen functioning hence preventing risk of sub-acute ruminal acidosis (Lettat et al., 2012). Numerous techniques have been established to describe effects of probiotics on rumen pH prescription. Probiotics contend with *Streptococcus bovis* and lactobacilli for utilisation of glucose, thus producing reduced amounts of lactic acid. From another viewpoint, probiotics release malate and small peptides, which in turn excite L-lactate use by *Megasphaera elsdenii* and *Selenomonas ruminantium*. Probiotics can modify protozoa concentrations in the rumen, which modulate lactic acid concentrations as ruminal protozoa contend with *Streptococcus bovis* for uptake of glucose and metabolise lactic acid (Nagaraja, 2012).

Influence of Probiotics on Growth Performance

The effect of probiotics on the performance of animals differs as supplementation can bring about rise in body weight gain, feed intake and feed conversion ratio (Hussein, 2014). The resultant rise in body weight gain obtained in Awassi lambs after being nourished with yeast culture has been reported by Haddad and Goussous (2005). Also, the inclusion of yeast improved body weight gain in lambs nourished low protein rations with no beneficial impacts on

such animal nourished high protein rations. Whitley et al. (2009) established that performance development of kids remained unaltered in occurrences of probiotic augmentation, excluding single case whereupon outstanding rise in bodyweight gain and advancement of the feed conversion ratio were detected in the augmented animals. Other researchers have established that it escalated development and feed intake with no impact on feed conversion ratio or that it improved feed intake with no impact on development and feed conversion. Soren et al. (2013) stated that giving *S. cerevisiae* to lambs as well possessed no impact on bodyweight and daily weight gain. Enhanced bodyweight gain could be attributed to higher ingestion and improved efficiency of feed utilization in the probiotic-supplemented animals (Papatsiros et al., 2011).

Influence of Probiotics on Flow of Nutrient to the Small Intestine

Yeast culture influence the benefactions of synthesis of microbial protein to the nutrients outline of digesta contribute to the small intestine. *S. cerevisiae* inclined to rise in a flow of dry matter together with non-ammonia nitrogen at the duodenum; however, the flow at the extreme ileum was unaltered which proposed that this rise in flow and absorption of non-ammonia nitrogen likely delineated a rise in flow of useful microbial protein to the small intestine. Yeast culture can influence the amino acid profile of bacterial protein discharging out of the rumen presumptively by cautious exciting of development of definite strains of anaerobic bacteria. Probiotic supplementation eases the microbial activities in rumen arising in improved ammonia encapsulate to create microbial protein and have erudite influence in lambs. Probiotics have been described to boost nitrogen retention by improving microbial peptidolytic and proteolytic activity in the rumen and post-ruminal amino acid flow (Khalid et al., 2011). Hernandez et al. (2009) outlined no influence of probiotic supplementation in N-retention, N-intake and fecal and urinary nitrogen in lambs fed mature orchard grass. Ruminal liquid and unrefined discharge rates have been sustained with or without fungal supplementation.

Influence of Probiotics on Carcass Characteristics

Rise in dressing percentage (DP) by lambs given rations augmented with methionine (cyc-methionine) and yeast have been outlined by Abdelrahman and Hunaiti (2008). Nevertheless, weights and segments of carcasses cuts in Awassi lambs or Shami goat kids in reaction to probiotic augmentation (Titi, Dmour, & Abdullah, 2008) did not change. Further, weights of carcass and contrived cuts (shoulder, loin, leg, rack, shank and total parts) with loin eye area, carcass length, leg circumference, and back fat thickness stayed unchanged by probiotic augmentation in goat's carcass outlined by Whitley et al. (2009). Tripathi and Karim (2011) outlined fore- and hind-quarter weight, empty live weight, pre-slaughter weight, hot carcass weight and dressing percentage were not altered by yeast culture augmentation to rations of developing lambs. Likewise, carcass configuration and half-carcass cut weight did not vary between yeast fed lambs and control. Nevertheless, lambs fed yeast culture tended toward enhanced carcass composition (% of HCW) characteristics of neck, shoulder, breast, leg, and fork shank.

Influence of Probiotics on Milk Production and Composition

Feeding of probiotics was established to enhance the production of milk and milk composition in sheep and goats in which milk protein content increased in connection to the starting level more than in goats fed the normal diet. Similarly, Abd ElGhani (2004) documented that yeast culture (*S. cerevisiae*) augmentation to suckling Zaraibi goats had a productive impact on milk yield and contents of milk energy, protein, total solids and solids-non-fat. Milk yield was established to be up to 17.5% higher for goats fed yeast culture. The rise in milk yield after yeast augmentation may be ascribed to an increase in dry matter intake, circulation of microbial protein and amino-acids to the duodenum and certainty that yeast supplementation act as an origin of vitamin B complex. Goats fed diets furnished with yeast culture also showed to have increased fat content in milk. The rise in milk fat content in supplemented animals could be connected to increase in total bacterial inhabitants and cellulolytic microorganisms in rumen, which

enhance the digestibility of fibre, fermentation and thus increase milk fat content (Chaucheyras-

Durand et al., 2008).

Probiotics and Immune Modulation

The endemic intestinal bacteria suppress pathogens by contending for the establishment of colony sites, providing sources of nutrition and synthesis of harmful substances or excitation of the immune system. These techniques are not reciprocally absolute and suppression consists of one or all of these mechanisms. The defense comprised a ten-fold rise in survival rate, outstandingly higher post- challenge feed intake and weight gain and deflate pathogen relocation to visceral tissues. The ingestion of probiotics has also been connected with favourable effects on the immune system such as lowered the threat of allergies and ameliorated disease resistance. Probiotics in a healthy animal excite non- distinct immune reaction and strengthen the system of immune defense (Chaucheyras-Durand et al., 2008).

CONCLUSION

Production performance and health status of small ruminant can be enhanced with probiotics capability effects related to stimulating the immune response, balancing ruminal ecosystem, increasing milk production in lactating animals and enhancing nutrient digestibility. Probiotics may boost the conservation of ruminal micro-flora, raise the ruminal pH, declines clinical and sub-critical acidosis. Probiotics boost the potency of fodder absorption, quality and quantity of meat and milk. Animals can also be safeguard by probiotics in opposition to disease causing organisms, immune reaction improvement, lower antibiotic use, death and through improved product quality, consumer's gain is shoot up.
Nevertheless, feed additives that are probiotics origin could vary in their end results, properties, source and mode of action. A mixture of probiotics with contrasting mechanisms of action could yield a better outcome and the bolstered probiotics are more effective than their constituents independently. Probiotics consequently supply to prevent any disturbance of the intestinal micro-flora as may arise throughout particulars developing stages and circumstances of a specific stress for the animals.

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