

ANIMAL FEED RESOURCES AND STRATEGIES

Low per unit animal productivity in Pakistan can be mainly attributed to poor nutrition, inadequate feed resources, nutritional imbalances, inappropriate feeding practices and seasonal variation in supply of fodder. Feeding contributes 65-70% of the total production cost for milk, meat and eggs. By adopting appropriate feeding practices, about 20 to 30% livestock productivity can be increased and production cost can be significantly reduced. PARC research is mainly focused on nutritive evaluation of feedstuffs, feeding systems, economical feed development (for ruminants and poultry) and development of nutritional technologies for efficient livestock production, feedlot fattening for meat production and fodder production and its conservation for livestock.

- Vegetable oil as fat source is better than tallow for preparation of milk replacer (Fig. 1).
- In Nili-Ravi buffalo calves, 120% NRC requirement yielded better results as compared to 80% & 100% NRC requirement in terms of weight gain and feed efficiency (Fig 2).
- Microbial inoculant improved the quality of maize silage, particularly nutrient digestibility in sheep (Fig. 3).
- Multi-nutrient urea molasses blocks supplementation improved the production performance of calves (buffalo and cattle) when fed with green fodder as basal diet.
- Supplementation of non-starch polysaccharide (NSP) enzyme in poultry diets having 4.5 and 7.5% dietary fibre level did not produce positive results (Fig. 4).



Fig. 1. Buffalo calf rearing on milk replacer

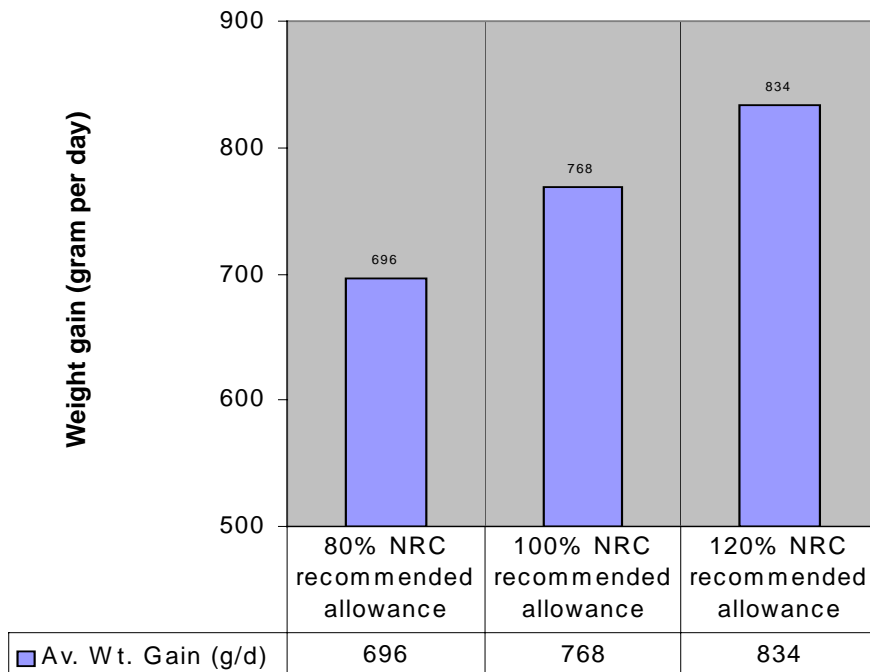


Fig. 2. Performance of buffalo calves fed on different plans of nutrition

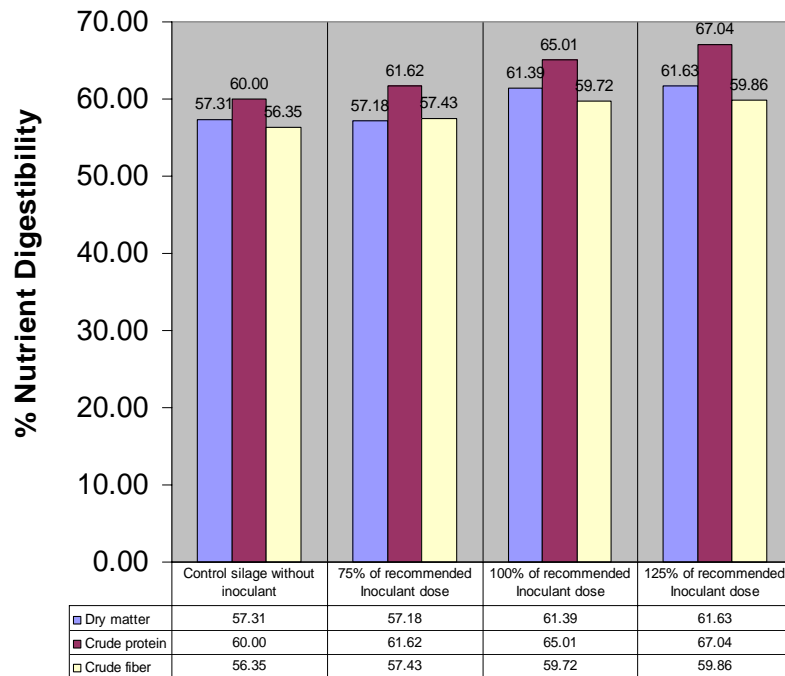


Fig. 3. Nutrient utilization of maize silage in sheep

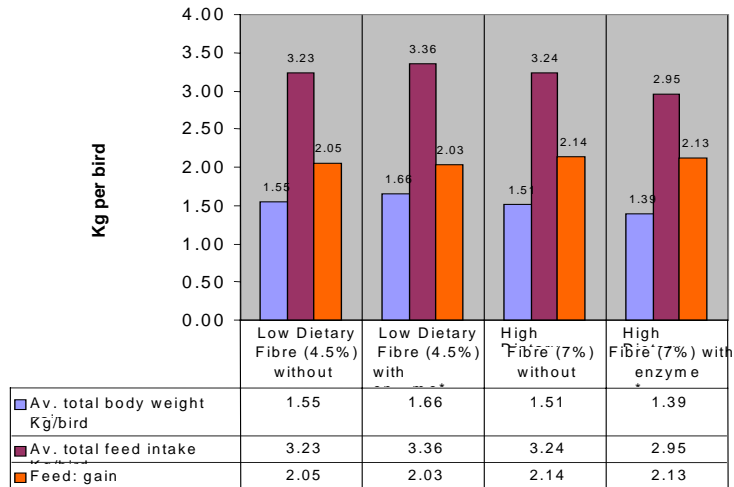


Fig. 4. Growth performance of broiler chicks fed on diets with and without NSP enzyme at two levels of dietary fibre