



Impact of dietary addition of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* on digestibility and blood parameters in Malabari kids[#]

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Abstract

A feeding experiment was conducted to assess the effect of live *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* addition on nutrient digestibility and haemato-biochemical parameters in Malabari kids. Eighteen kids, aged three to four months, were selected from the University Goat and Sheep Farm, Mannuthy and assigned to three dietary treatments (T1, T2 and T3) in a completely randomised design. Kids in T1 were fed a concentrate mixture containing 22 per cent CP and 70 per cent TDN, those in T2 received the same concentrate mixture with 3g *S. cerevisiae* (1×10^{10} CFU/g), and those in T3 were fed a concentrate mixture with 20 per cent CP and 70 per cent TDN along with 3g *S. cerevisiae* (1×10^{10} CFU/g) for 91 days. Ad libitum green fodder and weighed quantity of feed were offered daily to all groups. Digestibility trial and blood samples collection were conducted at the final week of the experiment. The digestibility coefficients of nutrients were similar. There was no statistically significant difference ($P > 0.05$) in blood haemoglobin, serum albumin, calcium, phosphorus, blood urea nitrogen and creatinine values. Serum total protein was significantly higher ($P < 0.05$) in T3 compared to T2 and serum glucose was significantly lower ($P < 0.05$) in T2 compared to T1. It can be concluded that feeding diet containing 22 per cent CP and 70 per cent TDN and 20 per cent CP and 70 per cent TDN added with 3g of *S. cerevisiae* had no adverse effect on the nutrient digestibility and haemato-biochemical parameters in Malabari goat kids.

Keywords: *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, nutrient digestibility, haemato-biochemical parameters, Malabari kids

According to the 20th livestock census (2019), the goat population of India is approximately 148.88 million, highlighting the species as largest small ruminant group in the country. Rearing of goats in India holds a significant role in the rural economy, particularly for small, marginal and landless farmers. It serves as a reliable source of supplementary income to the farmers and is known as the poor man's cow (Gupta et al., 2023). Feeding is often the major expense in goat production. Whether goats are raised for meat or milk, providing high quality feed is essential for maximizing profit potential (Roy & Rana., 2024). Achieving an optimal balance of nutrients is necessary to support their growth and productivity. Probiotics, when used act as a growth promoters and provide health benefits to the animal. Hence, it can be used as an alternative for conventional antibiotics (Arsene et al., 2021).

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Among the different microbial additives, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* has received particular attention in small ruminant nutrition. It optimizes the rumen fermentation by favouring the growth of cellulolytic and lactic acid utilizing bacteria (Newbold et al., 1996) and also enhances enzymatic activity and stabilizes rumen pH (Cuenca et al., 2022; Mohammed et al., 2018). But the effect of *S. cerevisiae* on digestibility and health status of Malabari kids are not yet studied. Based on this consideration, this study aims to assess the effect of diets added with live *S. cerevisiae* in Malabari kids on nutrient utilisation and haemato-biochemical parameters.

Materials and methods

Experimental animals

Eighteen Malabari kids of three to four months age of either sex were selected from the University Goat and Sheep farm, Mannuthy. These animals were randomly distributed into three treatment groups (T1, T2 and T3), each consisting of six kids, ensuring maximum uniformity in terms of age, sex, and initial body weight by using completely randomized design. The kids were housed individually in well cleaned and hygienic pens for 91 days. The kids were kept under uniform feeding and management system throughout the experimental period.

Experimental feed

The kids in T1 were fed with concentrate mixture containing 22 per cent CP and 70 per cent TDN, the kids in T2 were fed with concentrate mixture containing 22 per cent CP and 70 per cent TDN along with 3 gram *S. cerevisiae* – SACOMILK HF (10^{10} CFU/gram) and the kids in T3 were fed with concentrate mixture containing 20 per cent CP and 70 per cent TDN along with 3 gram *S. cerevisiae* – SACOMILK HF (10^{10} CFU/gram). *Ad libitum* green fodder was given in all the experimental groups daily and kids were fed as per the ICAR feeding standards (2013). The quantity of experimental feed and green grass offered to animals and balance if any, were recorded throughout the experimental period.

Digestibility trial

A digestibility trial for five days duration was conducted at the last week of feeding trial by total collection method. During the digestion trial, quantities of daily feed offered, faeces voided, and residue left were recorded. Later, the dung voided by each animal were collected quantitatively uncontaminated with urine, feed residue or dirt in individual containers, on a continuous 24 hour basis during the digestion trial. The entire quantity of pellets voided by each animal during 24 hours were weighed separately at morning 8 AM every day and stored in double lined polythene bags. The samples collected each day were stored in deep freezer (-20° C) for further analysis. At the end of the trial, samples collected for the

five consecutive days from each animal were pooled, mixed and representative samples were taken after thorough mixing for chemical analysis. The moisture was determined immediately and the crude protein in dung samples was estimated using the fresh samples. Balance samples were dried and ground for rest of the analysis as per standard procedure (AOAC, 2016). Proximate analysis of feed, green grass, left overs and dung were done as per the standard procedures (AOAC, 2016) and fibre fraction of feed, fodder and dung samples by Goering and Van Soest (1970). From the pooled sample, representative samples were taken for analysis. The apparent digestibility coefficient of nutrients was calculated. Minerals like calcium and phosphorus in the feed samples were analysed by the conventional precipitation and titration method as per AOAC (2016).

Haemato-biochemical parameters

Blood samples were collected from all the animals at last week of the feeding trial. The serum was separated after centrifugation of blood samples at 3000 rpm for 10 minutes. Whole blood was used to determine the haemoglobin (cyan methaemoglobin method) and serum samples were used to determine serum total protein (Jong and Vegeter, 1950), albumin (Dumas et al., 1971), blood urea nitrogen (BUN) (modified Berthelot method), serum creatinine (AOAC, 2016), glucose (GOD-PAP methodology), calcium (AOAC, 2016) and phosphorus (Bernhart & Wreath, 1955) by semiautomatic analyser using standard kits.

Statistical analysis

The statistical analysis of data was done as per Snedecor and Cochran, 1994. The data collected on digestibility trial and haemato-biochemical parameters were analysed statistically using SPSS version 24.0.

Results and discussion

Chemical composition

The chemical composition of experimental diets and green fodder fed to experimental kids are depicted in Table 1.

Digestibility of nutrients

Data on nutrient intake, outgo and digested (g/day) during the digestibility trial of experimental kids maintained on three dietary treatments are presented in Table 2.

The digestibility coefficients of nutrients like DM, CP, CF, EE, NFE, NDF and ADF were statistically similar ($P>0.05$) and are presented in Table 3.

Similarly, Obeidat et al. (2018) reported that the digestibility of dry matter, crude protein, neutral detergent

Table 1. Chemical Composition¹ of experimental diets and green fodder fed to experimental kids, (%)

S. No.	Nutrients	Feed I	Feed II	Hybrid Napier
1	Moisture	9.90 ± 1.28	9.83 ± 0.37	78.60 ± 0.95
2	Crude protein	21.96 ± 0.26	20.03 ± 0.19	15.96 ± 0.04
3	Crude fibre	8.56 ± 0.10	9.45 ± 1.07	30.37 ± 0.04
4	Ether extract	3.20 ± 0.001	3.09 ± 0.005	1.61 ± 0.02
5	Total ash	7.32 ± 0.16	8.50 ± 0.12	10.25 ± 0.02
6	Nitrogen free extract	58.38 ± 0.68	58.37 ± 1.14	41.81 ± 0.08
7	Neutral detergent fibre	28.89 ± 1.52	30.82 ± 0.18	58.18 ± 0.56
8	Acid detergent fibre	8.86 ± 0.40	11.68 ± 0.26	33.42 ± 1.57
9	Acid detergent lignin	1.83 ± 0.02	1.88 ± 0.88	8.77 ± 0.34
10	Acid Insoluble Ash	0.66 ± 0.04	1.05 ± 0.08	3.19 ± 0.05
11	Calcium	0.64 ± 0.02	0.65 ± 0.04	0.61 ± 0.01
12	Phosphorus	1.02 ± 0.04	0.99 ± 0.04	0.36 ± 0.01

¹Mean values of six replicates with SE
Values from 2-12 expressed on DM Basis

Table 2. Data¹ on digestibility trial of experimental kids maintained on three dietary treatments, (g/day)

Parameters	Dietary treatments		
	T1	T2	T3
Dry matter, (g/day)			
Intake	411.96 ± 47.81	473.85 ± 52.42	324.39 ± 49.80
Outgo	131.62 ± 9.02	153.50 ± 8.09	104.29 ± 19.51
Digested	280.34 ± 40.15	320.35 ± 46.40	220.11 ± 32.56
Crude protein, (g/day)			
Intake	80.16 ± 9.31	92.20 ± 10.23	62.65 ± 9.58
Outgo	20.32 ± 1.26	22.37 ± 1.44	16.06 ± 3.19
Digested	59.85 ± 8.38	69.83 ± 8.93	46.60 ± 6.64
Crude fibre, (g/day)			
Intake	72.71 ± 8.43	83.64 ± 9.16	42.60 ± 6.75
Outgo	37.17 ± 2.59	36.74 ± 2.49	23.49 ± 3.97
Digested	35.54 ± 7.35	46.91 ± 9.14	19.11 ± 3.00
Ether extract, (g/day)			
Intake	10.36 ± 1.21	11.91 ± 1.32	9.08 ± 1.40
Outgo	2.39 ± 0.14	3.17 ± 0.10	2.00 ± 0.48
Digested	7.97 ± 1.15	8.74 ± 1.28	7.09 ± 0.95
Nitrogen free extract, (g/day)			
Intake	213.56 ± 24.79	245.64 ± 27.25	181.54 ± 27.67
Outgo	51.90 ± 4.47	67.17 ± 3.80	46.19 ± 8.81
Digested	161.66 ± 20.44	178.47 ± 23.93	135.35 ± 20.39
Neutral detergent fibre, (g/day)			
Intake	169.33 ± 19.64	194.78 ± 21.43	115.60 ± 18.02
Outgo	62.72 ± 5.01	67.60 ± 3.56	42.96 ± 7.75
Digested	106.61 ± 17.67	127.18 ± 23.76	72.64 ± 11.18
Acid detergent fibre, (g/day)			
Intake	80.07 ± 9.29	92.12 ± 10.09	50.30 ± 7.94
Outgo	49.40 ± 3.95	50.54 ± 2.09	30.89 ± 6.10
Digested	30.67 ± 6.92	41.58 ± 9.95	19.41 ± 3.18

¹Mean values of six replicates with SE

Table 3. The digestibility coefficient¹ of nutrients of three experimental rations fed to Malabari kids, (%)

Parameters	Dietary Treatments			P value
	T1	T2	T3	
Dry matter	67.21 ± 1.74	66.42 ± 2.54	68.42 ± 2.00	0.800 ^{ns}
Crude protein	73.87 ± 1.57	75.08 ± 1.46	75.09 ± 1.63	0.816 ^{ns}
Crude fibre	47.00 ± 4.34	53.78 ± 5.52	45.16 ± 2.13	0.344 ^{ns}
Ether extract	75.95 ± 2.19	72.08 ± 2.56	79.26 ± 2.11	0.120 ^{ns}
Nitrogen free extract	75.33 ± 0.81	71.79 ± 1.81	74.94 ± 1.97	0.267 ^{ns}
Neutral detergent fibre	61.79 ± 2.98	62.85 ± 4.79	62.88 ± 1.85	0.968 ^{ns}
Acid detergent fibre	36.81 ± 3.95	42.38 ± 5.61	39.78 ± 4.22	0.703 ^{ns}

¹Mean values of six replicates with SE, ns-non significant (P > 0.05)

fibre and acid detergent fibre did not differ significantly among treatment groups of 6 months old female Awassi lambs fed diets with *S. cerevisiae*. Kowalik et al. (2016), reported that the supplementation of *S. cerevisiae* CNCM I 1077 to Corriedale rams did not exert any marked effect on the total tract digestibility of crude fibre. Hassan and Saeed (2013) also reported that ether extract digestibility was statistically similar in 4 to 6 months old male Awassi lambs fed concentrate diets containing 13.5 per cent crude protein along with 0.5 per cent *S. cerevisiae*. Osita et al. (2020), found that nitrogen free extract digestibility did not differ significantly among West African Dwarf lambs fed high-roughage or high-concentrate diets supplemented with 0, 0.75, and 1.5 grams of *S. cerevisiae* per kilogram.

In contrast to these results, Wang et al. (2022) found that the digestibility of dry matter, crude protein, neutral detergent fibre and acid detergent fibre was significantly improved in 3- to 4-month-old male Hu sheep when supplemented with low and high levels of yeast culture. Hassan and Saeed (2013) observed a significant increase in the digestibility of crude fibre and nitrogen free extract in 4 to 6 months old male Awassi lambs fed a concentrate diet containing 13.5 per cent crude protein along with supplementation of 0.5 per cent *S. cerevisiae*. Abd El-Ghani (2004) found a significant improvement in the

digestion coefficient of ether extract in Zaraibi goats aged between 12 and 24 months and were supplemented with 3 grams of yeast (*S. cerevisiae*) per day. It could be inferred that dosage of *S. cerevisiae* used in the present study was not enough to exert a significant effect on digestibility of nutrients.

Haemato-biochemical parameters

The haemato-biochemical parameters are presented in Table 4. Blood haemoglobin, serum albumin, calcium, phosphorus, blood urea nitrogen and creatinine were statistically similar (P > 0.05).

The serum glucose levels obtained in *S. cerevisiae* supplemented group T2 and T3 were statistically lower (P < 0.05) and the findings are contrary to other studies using goat kid diet added with *S. cerevisiae*. The reason for the variation observed cannot be ascertained but the values obtained were within the normal range (Kaneko et al., 2008) of goat kids. Serum total protein in the present study was significantly higher (P < 0.05) in T3 group when compared to T2 group, indicating a better immune status. Hossain et al. (2012) also indicated a better immune status when higher serum total protein levels were obtained in growing Kankrej calves fed on a diet with a 50:50

Table 4. Haemato-biochemical parameters¹ of experimental kids maintained on three dietary treatments

Parameters	Dietary Treatments			P value
	T1	T2	T3	
Haemoglobin (g/dL)	11.89 ± 0.56	11.15 ± 0.78	10.82 ± 0.87	0.598 ^{ns}
Serum glucose (mg/dL)	71.81 ^a ± 5.03	54.22 ^b ± 5.85	58.55 ^{ab} ± 2.35	0.044 [*]
Serum total proteins (g/dL)	5.92 ^{ab} ± 0.32	5.66 ^b ± 0.22	6.60 ^a ± 0.12	0.033 [*]
Serum albumin (g/dL)	2.69 ± 0.06	2.67 ± 0.08	2.76 ± 0.10	0.750 ^{ns}
Serum calcium (mg/dL)	12.94 ± 0.61	13.17 ± 1.48	12.38 ± 1.98	0.927 ^{ns}
Serum phosphorus (mg/dL)	8.93 ± 0.41	9.33 ± 0.90	8.58 ± 0.99	0.803 ^{ns}
Blood urea nitrogen (mg/dL)	11.83 ± 0.65	11.65 ± 0.68	11.33 ± 0.68	0.867 ^{ns}
Serum creatinine (mg/dL)	0.87 ± 0.12	0.64 ± 0.09	0.69 ± 0.08	0.241 ^{ns}

¹Mean values of six replicates with SE, ns-non significant (P>0.05)

^{*}Mean of different treatment having different alphabets as superscripts within a row differ significantly (P < 0.05)

concentrate-to-roughage ratio, supplemented with 10 g of live *S. cerevisiae*.

The haemoglobin concentration, serum albumin, calcium, phosphorus, blood urea nitrogen (BUN) and creatinine in the present study were statistically ($P > 0.05$) similar in all the groups. Enculescu (2021) in Romanian Black and Spotted dairy cows (aged 5–8 years) reported a similar finding, where albumin, total calcium and inorganic phosphorus concentrations did not differ significantly by the addition of 80 g/head/day of *S. cerevisiae*. Ozsoy et al. (2013) also reported no notable influence of yeast supplementation on BUN levels in hybrid male goat kids (Saanen × Sami cross), aged 3.5 to 4 months, supplemented with four different levels of yeast culture (0, 1.5, 3.0, and 4.5 per cent) in diet. Abdalla et al. (2013) observed no alteration in serum creatinine levels of 75 days old buffalo calves supplemented with *S. cerevisiae* at 0, 30, and 60 g/calf/day indicating no notable damage on kidney function.

But Ghazanfar et al. (2015) in Sahiwal dairy heifers aged between 5 and 7 months, supplemented daily with 5 g of *S. cerevisiae* strain 1026 reported an enhanced haemoglobin concentration.

Conclusion

It can be concluded that feeding a diet containing 22 per cent CP and 70 per cent TDN, and 20 per cent CP and 70 per cent TDN added with 3g of *S. cerevisiae* (1×10^{10} CFU/g) had no adverse effect on the nutrient digestibility and haemato-biochemical parameters in Malabari goat kids. The level of addition of *S. cerevisiae* viz 3g (1×10^{10} CFU/g) was not enough to provide any statistically significant effect on nutrient digestibility and health benefit and hence no statistically significant improvement in growth was observed. Future studies should aim to evaluate higher levels of *S. cerevisiae* supplementation in Malabari goat kids.

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Conflicts of interest

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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