

# Effect of different dietary protein level on the growth performance of broiler chickens

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ABSTRACT: The present study was conducted at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel University of Agriculture and Technology, Meerut (India) to compare the growth performance of broiler chicken after feeding them on four dietary treatments viz., T. (control) containing 22 per cent crude protein (CP), T, 85 per cent control diet + 7.5 per cent groundnut cake + 7.5 per cent fish meal (25 % CP), T, 83 per cent control diet + 8.5 per cent maize + 8.5 per cent wheat (20 % CP) and T<sub>4</sub> 66.5 per cent control diet + 33.5 per cent wheat (18 % CP). Average body weight gain of broiler chicks of 6 week age, fed control diet (22 % CP), 25, 20 and 18 per cent CP were reported  $2062 \pm 4.1, 2174 \pm 4.9, 1875 \pm 4.0$  and  $1780 \pm 2.8$  g against the feed consumption of  $3727 \pm 1.4, 4243.9 \pm 20.7, 3432 \pm 20.7, 3432$ 14.3 and 3396  $\pm$  11.4g, respectively. The average FCR of control diet  $T_2$ , 25,  $T_3$ , 20 and  $T_4$  18 per cent CP were 1.94  $\pm$  0.00, 1.83  $\pm$  0.01,  $1.89 \pm 0.01$  and  $1.75 \pm 0.07$ , respectively.

**KEY WORDS**: Broiler chick, Feed consumption, Body weight gain, FCR

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#### INTRODUCTION

In India there is a huge gap between demand and availability of poultry feeds in general and energy feeds in particular. The unusually high price of grains has forced the poultry farmers to search their substitutes i.e. traditionally groundnut cake, fish meal, wheat and maize grain. Maize is used as a main energy source in poultry diets but is costly (Raman et al., 2010). The energy content of feeds like ground nut cake, maize and wheat can be increased by various processing techniques like grinding, cooking and reconstitution. The seed is quite digestible and palatability and gives more energy than cereals on equal weight basis when fed to the flock

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(Neshein et al., 1979). Animal proteins are often used in chick diet but due to the non-availability quality raw material of feed and escalating costs, alternative protein source need to be exploited. Large quantities of fish meal are generated in India from the fish processing plants, which include the skin, bone and viscera (Smitha et al., 2006). Hence, the present study was undertaken to assess the effect of different dietary incorporation of protein on the growth and feed efficiency of broiler chicken.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The present study was conducted at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel University of Agriculture and Technology, Meerut (India) 2012 one day old 40 commercial broiler chicks (Cobb 400) were procured from Venky's Hatchery (Meerut) and reared for one week on deep litter and weighed individually. Birds were randomly divided into 4 groups with 10 birds in each after discarding too light and heavy weight birds. All the groups were reared on deep litter for a period of (1-6 week) during

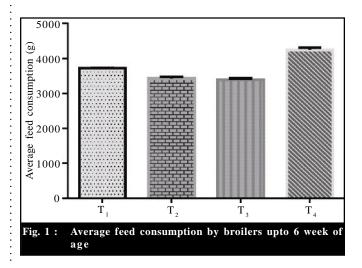
Table A : Chemical analysis of the broiler experimental diets				
Sr. No.	Chemical constituents	Starter diet (%)	Finisher diet (%)	
1.	Moisture	12.00	12.00	
2.	Dry matter	88.00	88.00	
3.	Ash content	7.00	7.00	
4.	Crude fibre	5.00	5.00	
5.	Crude protein	22.00	19.00	
6.	Total fat	5.00	5.00	
7.	Calcium	0.90	0.90	
8.	Phosphorus	0.60	0.60	

which standard management practices were adopted. The group one birds were fed control diet containing crude protein (CP) 22 per cent procured from Godrej (India). In rest three group changes in basal diet were made by replacing some basal diet with other feed forms. Group 2, 3 and 4 birds were fed with 25, 20 and 18 per cent CP consisting of 85 per cent control diet + 7.5 per cent GNC + 7.5 per cent fish meal, 83 per cent control diet + 8.5 per cent maize + 8.5 per cent wheat and 66.5 per cent control diet + 33.5 per cent wheat, respectively (Table A). They were formulated to have comparable protein and energy contents to meet design requirements (AOAC, 1990). Above mentioned ration were offered daily in the morning in individual cages upto 6 week age ad libitum and fresh clean drinking water was also provided ad libitum. Feed was provided linear chicks feeders upto 4 week age. The bucket type handling feeders were used during the finishing phase (4 to 6 week age). The lips of feeders were kept at level of shoulders of the birds to prevent feed wastage. The linear feeders were refilled twice a day upto 4 week age to avoid wastage. The birds were allowed to consume feed ad libitum throughout the experiment. Water was also provided ad libitum. Body weight gain and feed intake per replicate were recorded at weekly intervals. The efficiency of feed utilization was calculated as feed intake per unit weight gain. The data were subjected to statistical analysis under Completely Randomized Design employing

one way analysis of variance (Snedecor and Cochran, 1989).

#### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The average feed intake bird during the whole experimental period upto 6 week fed diet were found  $3727 \pm 1.4$ ,  $4244 \pm 20.7$ ,  $3432 \pm 14.3$  and  $3396 \pm 11.4$  g, respectively (Fig. 1, Table 1). The highest feed consumption was reported by the broiler chicks fed diet  $T_2$  and lowest feed consumption by the broiler chicks fed diet  $T_4$ . The feed consumption upto 6 week, ranged from  $3395.80 \pm 11.41$  g ( $T_3$  group) to  $4243.90 \pm 20.69$  g ( $T_1$  group), There are significant differences (P<0.05) in feed

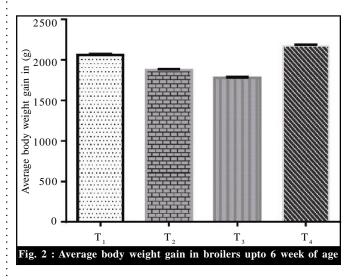


Treatments	Parameters			
Treatments	Feed consumption (g)	Body weight gain (g)	Feed conversion ratio (g)	
T <sub>1</sub> (22 % CP) Control	3727.50±11.45	$2062.00\pm4.07$	$1.75\pm0.07$	
T <sub>2</sub> (25 % CP)	4243.90±20.69	2174.20±4.87	$1.94\pm0.00$	
T <sub>3</sub> (20 % CP)	3432.50±14.31	1875.40±3.97	$1.83\pm0.01$	
T <sub>4</sub> (18 % CP)	3395.80±11.41	1780.20±2.83	$1.89\pm0.01$	
Average	3699.92±14.46	1972.95±3.93	$1.85\pm0.02$	

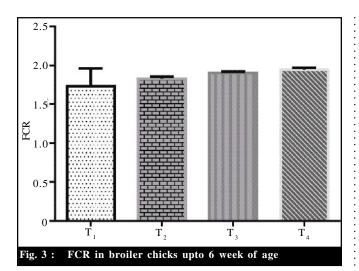
consumption of broiler chicks among different treatment of diet fed to broiler chickens. These observations were corroborated by the report on feeding table also showed that feed consumption upto 6 week of ranged from 3395.80  $\pm$  11.41 g (T<sub>3</sub> group) to 4243.90  $\pm$  20.69 g (T<sub>1</sub> group). The significant differences (P<0.05) exist in feed consumption of broiler chicks among different treatment of diet fed to broiler chickens. The highest feed consumption was observed for the group of chicks fed diet  $T_1$  and lowest for the diet  $T_3$ ; which could be inversely related to energy content of the diet  $T_1$  (25%) and  $T_3$ (18%). Since birds first take feed to satisfy their energy, demand once their energy requirement satisfied, they stop feeding. Kavitha et al. (2003) reported that the average feed consumption ranged from 3570.4 to 3865.00 g per chicks fed different diets, while average value of feed consumption in present study was  $3699.92 \pm 13.83$  g which is in between the above value. Hence, our results are in agreement with above study. (Grover et al., 2010) Reported the average feed consumption during 0-6 week of age for commercial broiler ranged from 2506.0 to 2812.0 g. The average feed consumption was lower than present investigation. This may be due to effect of strain of broilers used in experiment and further may be due to effect of diet composition. (Shashipal et al., 2010) Reported average feed consumption upto 6 week of ranges from 3445.4 to 3483.0 g per chicks with average value of 3460.96 g. Although feed intake value in preset investigation for the T<sub>2</sub>, T<sub>3</sub> and T<sub>4</sub> group is slightly lower than the value of feed consumption was reported by (Shashipal et al., 2010), but average value feed consumption is slightly higher this is due to higher feed consumption in present study for the  $T_1$ .

The average body weight gain per bird during the whole experimental period upto 6 week of age fed diet  $T_1$ ,  $T_2$ ,  $T_3$  and  $T_4$  were found  $2062 \pm 4.07$ ,  $2174.20 \pm 4.87$ ,  $1875.40 \pm 3.97$  and  $1780.20 \pm 2.83$  g, respectively (Fig. 2, Table 1). Highest body weight gain was reported in the broiler chicks fed diet  $T_2$  and lowest body weight gain in the broiler chicks fed diet  $T_4$  the body weight upto 6 week ranged from  $1780.20 \pm 2.83$  to  $2174.20 \pm 4.87$  g. There are significant differences (P<0.05) in body weight gain of broiler chicks among different treatment of diet fed to broiler chickens. Average body weight gain of broiler chicks upto 6 week of age for the group fed diet  $T_1$ ,  $T_2$ ,  $T_3$  and  $T_4$  was found  $2174.20 \pm 4.87$ ,  $1875.40 \pm 3.97$ ,  $1780.20 \pm 2.83$  and  $20.62 \pm 4.07$  g, respectively. The overall average body weight gains for  $T_1$ ,  $T_2$ ,  $T_3$  and

 $T_4$  was 1972.95  $\pm$  4.00 g. Table also showed that body weight upto 6 week ranged from  $1780.20 \pm 2.83$  g to  $2174.20 \pm 4.87$  g. Significant differences (P<0.05) were presented in body weight gain of broiler chicks among different treatment of diet fed to broiler chickens. Overall body weight gain upto 6 week of age was higher for the group fed diet T<sub>1</sub>. Since, there was inclusion of fish meal in diet T<sub>1</sub>; the increase in growth may be due to inclusion fish meal. Karimi (2006) reported that inclusion of fish meal in diet increased daily body weight gain from 0-42 days significantly. Shashipal et al. (2010) reported body weight gain ranged from 1898.02 to 1920.38 g. Average body weight gain from 0-6 week's age was 1907.30 g per day. In present investigation the average body weight gain upto 6 weeks of age  $1972.95 \pm 4.00$  g is slightly higher. This difference can be contributed due to difference in their genetic constitution. Grover et al. (2010) reported that average body weight gain was ranged from 1280.0 to 1440 g during 0-6 week of age. These values were lower than present investigation which may be due to variation in dietary ingredient and due to genetically potential of chick strain use for broiler production. Kavitha et al. (2003) conducted experiment on growth performance of broiler, body weight gain was reported from 1338.07 to 1791.07 g during 0-6 weeks of age with average weight gain was 1774.53 g. Mean value was lower than present investigation  $(1972.95 \pm 4.00)$ . This difference can be contributed by genetically potential of chicks.



The average cumulative FCR was lowest on diet  $T_1$  (control diet having 22 % CP) and highest on diet  $T_2$  having 25 per cent CP (25 % control + 7.5 GNC + 7.5 fish meal) (Fig. 3, Table 1). There were no significance



difference (P<0.05) in feed conversion ratio found among T<sub>2</sub>, T<sub>3</sub> and T<sub>4</sub> diets. Feed conversion ratio ranged from  $1.75 \pm 0.07$  to  $1.94 \pm 0.00$ . All the treatments were non-significantly different from the control (T<sub>1</sub>). These results are in close resemblance with the results reported by various workers. Average feed conversion ratio for growing chicks varied from 2.03 to 2.28 as reported Raman et al. (2010). In present investigation average value of feed conversion ratio ranged from 1.75 to 1.94 which is lower than reported by above scientist; this difference may be due to difference in composition of diet or it may be due to genetic improvement in chicks. Grover et al. (2010) reported that feed conversion ratio ranges from 1.86 to 1.95. These results are in agreement with present experiment. Kavitha et al. (2003) reported feed conversion efficiency of different diet fed to broiler chicks upto 6 week of age ranged from 2.03 to 2.14. Shashipal et al. (2010) also reported that feed consumption ranged from 1.99 to 2.00. This was higher than present experiment and this difference might be due to genetic improvement in chick strain.

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