Effect of Dietary Supplementation of Fenugreek  
*(Trigonella foenum graecum L.)* Seeds Powder on the  
Performance of Feed Consumption and Feed Conversion Ratio  
in Commercial Broilers

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**ABSTRACT**

The present study a total of 72 day old chick of male broiler hatch were procured and randomly distributed into four groups. Treatment T1 is control and treatment T2, T3, and T4 with six sub groups comprising of two birds in each to serve as replicates. Broilers in treatment T1 was fed diet as per NRC standard CP 22 and ME 2900 but broilers in T2, T3 and T4 were fed standard ration T1 supplemented with 0.25, 0.5, 0.75 present FSP ad lib. The mean body weight of broiler in different treatment T1, T2, T3 and T4 were 1236.39gm, 1298.61gm, 1303.38gm and 1314.44gm respectively and give significant effect among that treatment. The mean feed intake of broilers at five week of age in T1, T2, T3 and T4 were 1870.0gm, 1889.65gm, 1921.65gm and 197.65gm respectively and give non-significant effect among that treatment. The mean feed consumption ratio of broiler at five week of age in T1, T2, T3 and T4 were 1.69kg, 1.43kg, 1.67kg, and 1.69kg respectively and among that treatment give non-significant effect. It was concluded that treatment T4 give high feed intake, and high feed consumption ratio (FCR) per broiler among those treatments.

**Keywords:**-Fenugreek *(Trigonella foenum graecum L.)*, Feed conversion ratio (FCR), Day old chicks (DOC), Electronic weighing machine, feed-supplemented probiotics (FSP), National research council (NRC).

**INTRODUCTION**

Indian economy majorly contributed by livestock and poultry sector. Poultry rearing is one of the most suitable activities to improve the livelihoods of the poor people due to the advantage that it requires small amount of capital and the relative ease to set-up such a production system in the rural communities. The broiler industry is growing at the rate of 12-15 per cent per annum during last few years. The total poultry production in country is 729.2 million. The recent trend in the feed supplement is directed toward the use of natural ingredients as alternatives to antibiotics, synthetic colors and other chemicals. Feed additives are added to broilers diet to improve its productive performance by increasing growth rate, better feed conversion efficiency and greater livability in poultry birds. Leafy vegetables seed powder as an additive in the diet of chickens is very common.

Fenugreek *(Trigonella foenum-graecum L.)* is a well-known medicinal plant that grows in nature and mainly cultivated in India, Pakistan and china. Fenugreek seeds have many therapeutic effects like hypoglycemic, anti-diabetic, anti-fertility, anti-cancer, anti-parasitic, anthelmintic, antibacterial, anti- inflammatory, antipyretic, and antimicrobial properties [1]. It contains neurin, biotin and trim ethylamine which tends to stimulate the appetite by their action on the nervous system [2]. Since long Fenugreek is being used as a growth promoter.
particularly in the diet of broiler chicken. Inclusion of Fenugreek seeds in the diet significantly improves the body weight of broiler chicken [3,4,5]. Further, it improves the feed efficiency with reduction in feed cost when used as natural feed additive in broiler chicken diet [6]. There are numerous feed additives of plant origin that are used in broiler feeds to improve the performance by enhancing growth rate, better feed conversion efficiency and lower mortality.

Seeds of Fenugreek (Trigonella foenum-graecum L.) is reported to have many therapeutic effects such as hypoglycemic, hypocholesterolaemic, anthelmintic, antibacterial, anti-inflammatory, antipyretic and antimicrobial properties [1, 7]. Fenugreek seeds contain neurin, biotin and trimethylamine which tend to stimulate the appetite by their action on the nervous system [8]. Alloui et al. (2012) reported that 0.3% fenugreek had positive effects on growth performance of broiler chick where as Abbas (2010) found negative effects on feed intake and no effect on live weight. Apart from a range of beneficial effects including growth promoting, having 24 % CP and 3819 (ME) Kcal/Kg of energy and rich in vitamins and minerals, fenugreek can be regarded as a nutritious feed ingredient as well [9, 10]. El-Mallah et al. (2005) reported that 2% fenugreek in diets of turkey chicks significantly increased the digestibility of nitrogen free extract due to saponin present in fenugreek [11]. Meanwhile, Al-Habori et al. (1998) found that fenugreek reduced the plasma cholesterol levels of rabbit [8].

Objective of this study was to determine the effects of a range of dietary fenugreek seed powder on weekly feed consume and weekly fees consumption ratio (FCR) performance of commercial broiler chicken.

**MATERIAL AND METHOD**

A total of 72 DOC broiler chick of same hatch were procured and randomly divided into four groups with six sub group comprising of 3 chicks in each to separate as replicates with the following dietary regimes as treatments:

- **T1 (Control)** Ration with no Trigonella foenum-graecum L.
- **T2** Ration with 0.25% Trigonella foenum-graecum L
- **T3** Ration with 0.50% Trigonella foenum-graecum L
- **T4** Ration with 0.75% Trigonella foenum-graecum L

The birds were reared in battery type cage under standard management practices from day old to 6 week of age. Dried Trigonella foenum-graecum L seeds power was supplemented as per dietary regions of treatment. Broiler starter ration contained CP: 22 percent and ME: 2900 K cal/kg feed and broiler finisher ration contained CP: 19 percent and ME: 3000 K cal/kg was fed ad libitum to the birds. Initial weight of each chick was recorded on arrival and then weekly to obtain the growth rate. The feed consumption was also recorded weekly to determine the feed conversion rate. The mortality rate was also recorded during the experiment period.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredients (%)</th>
<th>Broiler starter (0-21 days)</th>
<th>Broiler Finisher (22-42 days)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maize</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>63.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ground nut cake</td>
<td>23.35</td>
<td>18.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish meal</td>
<td>13.00</td>
<td>15.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The data on various parameters were collected tabulated and statistically analysis of variance (ANOVA) technique as per Snedecor & Cocharan (1994) in Random Block Designed.

**RESULT AND DISCUSSION**
Statistically significant different ($P \leq 0.05$) in respect to Fenugreek level was found to have influence on average weekly feed consumption of broiler and average weekly feed consumption ratio (FCR) among the experimental group of broiler.

A) **Average Weekly Feed Intake of Broilers**
The data regarding body weight of the chicks randomly distributed into control ($T_0$) and four different treatments ($T_1$, $T_2$, $T_3$, and $T_4$) were observed weekly. At first week of age the highest intake of broiler was recorded in $T_4 (173.67g)$ followed by $T_3 (162.17g)$, $T_2 (162.00g)$, and $T_1 (149.00g)$ and Second weeks of age the highest intake of broilers was recorded in $T_4 (285.00g)$ followed by $T_3 (285.33g)$, $T_2 (277.50g)$ and $T_1 (263.00g)$. Third weeks of age the highest intake of broiler were recorded in $T_4 (449.50g)$ Followed by $T_3 (444.17g)$, $T_2 (437.50g)$, and $T_1 (415.33g)$. At fourth weeks of age the highest intake of broiler were recorded in $T_4(498.17g)$ followed by $T_3 (457.50g)$, $T_2 (449.83g)$ and $T_1 (405.50g)$. At five weeks of age the highest intake of broiler were recorded in $T_4(599.00g)$ followeed by $T_3 (595.83g)$ $T_2 (580.17g)$ and $T_1 (573.33g)$. Irrespective of treatments the mean feed intake of broilers in first week, second, third, four and five week of age were 173.67g, 285.00g, 449.50g, 498.17 and 599.00g respectively and the different in this value were non-significant effect. When treatment wise feed intake of broiler were observed it was noted that highest weekly mean feed intake of broiler were recorded in $T_4 (599.00g)$ followed by $T_3 (595.83g)$ $T_2 (580.17g)$ and $T_1 (573.33g)$. The differences in these values of treatments were also found significant indication a significant effect of treatment feed intake of broiler. Among $T_2$ and $T_3$ was non-significant being at par as shown in figure no. 1.

B) **Average Weekly Feed Conversion Ratio Per Broiler**
The data regarding feed conversion ratio of broiler randomly distributed into control ($T_0$) and four different treatments ($T_1$, $T_2$, $T_3$, and $T_4$). The following observation were at one week of age the highest feed conversion ratio per broiler were recorded in $T_2(1.88kg)$ followed by $T_1(1.99kg)$, $T_4(2.06kg)$, and $T_3(2.18kg)$. Two weeks of age the highest feed conversion ratio per broiler were recorded in $T_1 (1.90kg)$ followed by $T_4 (1.96kg)$, $T_2 (1.97kg)$, and $T_3 (2.02kg)$ and three weeks of age $T_1 (1.35kg)$ followed by $T_2 (1.46kg)$, $T_3 (1.50kg)$ and $T_4 (1.52kg)$. At four weeks of age the highest feed conversion ratio per of broiler was recorded in $T_3 (1.29kg)$ followed by $T_2 (1.42kg)$, $T_4 (1.49kg)$ and $T_1 (1.53kg)$. At five week of age $T_3$
(1.41kg) followed by T1 (1.45kg), T2 (1.45kg) and T4 (1.48kg). In respective of treatments the mean feed conversion ratio of broilers in first seconds, third, four and fifth week of age were 1.88kg, 1.90kg, 1.36kg, 1.29kg and 1.41kg respectively and the different in this value were non-significant effect. When treatment wise feed conversion ratio in broiler were observed it was noted that highest weekly mean feed conversion ratio of broiler were recorded in T2 (1.43kg) followed by T1 (1.64kg), T3 (1.67kg) and T4 (1.69kg). The differences in these values of treatments were also found non-significant effect of treatment on feed conversion ratio of broilers shown in figure no. 2

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**Fig. 1 Weekly Average feed intake (g) per broiler in four different treatments**

**Fig. 2 Weekly feed conversion ratio per broiler in four different treatments:**
The results were summarized that mean feed intake per broiler in T1, T2, T3, and T4 during five week of age were 1870gm, 1889.65gm, 1921.65gm, and 197.65gm respectively and the different in feed intake of broilers between treatments were non-significant. On the other hand mean feed conversion ratios of broilers in T1, T2, T3 and T4 during five week of age were 1.64kg, 1.43kg, 1.67kg and 1.69kg respectively. Differences in FCR of broilers between treatments were non-significant effect.

Table 1: Mean Value Parameters Supplemental Fenugreek Seed Powder of Body Weight, Feed Intake and Feed Consumption Ratio in Commercial Broilers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameters</th>
<th>Treatments</th>
<th>Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>T1</td>
<td>T2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body weight at five week of age (kg)</td>
<td>1.23&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>1.29&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed intake per broiler (kg)</td>
<td>1.87&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>1.88&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCR (kg)</td>
<td>1.64&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>1.43&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**CONCLUSION**

It is concluded that there was a significant effect of Fenugreek seed powder supplementation in feed of broilers on body weight and gain in weight. But feed intake per broiler and feed consumption ratio per broiler were non-significant effect was observed. The feed contained 75% (T4) Fenugreek seed powder were observed the best result to improved body weight, feed intake per broiler and feed consumption ratio per broiler.

**REFERENCES**

