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License: CC BY 4.0 DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.36380/jwpr.2019.19> **Effect of**

Glutamate Supplementation as a Feed Additive on

Performance of Broiler Chickens Vebera Maslami¹, Mirnawati²,

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mail: yettimarlida@ansci.unand.ac.id ; ORCID: 0000-0001-5395-1297 Received: 12 Aug. 2019 Accepted: 17 Sept. 2019 ABSTRACT Feed additives are ingredients that are added to the ration as growth promoters and enhancement of the immune system. Glutamate is a feed additive that improves performance by improving the quality of the small intestine and enhancing the immune system. The purpose [of this study was](#)

[to](#) know [the](#) effect [of](#) including glutamate [as a feed additive](#) in

improving broiler [performance](#). The material used in this study was broiler strain MB 202 from PT Charoen Phokphand Indonesia as many as 240 birds. The design used

was [a Completely Randomized Design](#) (CRD) trial design, [with six treatments](#)

[and](#) four [replications](#), so that there were 24 cage plots as experimental units. Each experimental unit consisted of 10 chickens. The Glutamate doses in groups

were, A (0.4% commercial glutamate; B (0% glutamate); C (0.2% glutamate); D (0.4% glutamate); E (0.6% glutamate); F (0.8% glutamate). The results indicated that glutamate up to 0.8% had significant effects [on feed intake body weight gain and](#)

[feed conversion ratio](#) (1.70%), but it did not affect the percentage of carcass. It is concluded that including the 0.8% glutamate in broiler diets can improve broiler performance with 35 days of maintenance. Key words: Feed additive, Glutamate, Growth promoters, Immune system, Performance INTRODUCTION The broiler is one of the meat-producing livestock that is quite potent in meeting the people's needs for animal protein needs. This is because broiler meat is relatively cheap and easy to obtain compared to other animal proteins. According to Ensminger et al. (2004) broilers have a fast and efficient growth in converting feed into meat. In addition, broilers also have weaknesses which tend to be susceptible to disease attacks which results in a decrease in broiler performance. Supplementation of additional feed is one solution to prevent disease attacks by increasing immunity and growth promoters. According to Madhupriya et al. (2018) Feed additives are ingredients and add to rations to improve animal immunity and performance. Antibiotic Growth Promoter (AGP) is an antibiotic feed additive added to broiler feed. However, the use of AGP in broiler feed is prohibited because residues in broiler meat are harmful to public health. Residual hazards could reduce human resistance to consumption of certain types of antibiotics and other hazards (Ruegg, 2013; Singh et al., 2014). This had led to the enactment of the World Health Organization's regulation regarding the prohibition on

the [use of antibiotics in](#) animal feed, hence [the use of](#) antibiotics as [feed](#)

[additives](#) in broiler feed. So it is necessary to look for additional feed ingredients that are safer for livestock and the community. One safe and harmless feed additive is glutamate. Glutamate is a feed additive that can improve growth promotes and enhances the broiler immune system. Glutamate functions was known as a constituent of proteins, a substrate in the synthesis of amino acids, as a precursor to several non-

essential amino acids and helped the metabolism [\(Young and Ajami, 2000\)](#).

According to Newholms [et al.](#) (2003); Reeds [et al.](#) (2000) glutamate could improve intestinal conditions by increasing intestinal villi length and increasing maintenance of To cite this paper: Maslami V, Mirnawati, Jamsari, Nur YSh and Marlida Y (2019). Effect of Glutamate Supplementation as a Feed Additive on Performance of

[Broiler Chickens. J. World Poult. Res.](#), 9 (3): 154-159. 154 intestinal integrity. In addition, according to Li et al. (2007) glutamate regulated Inductible [Nitric Oxide](#)

[Synthase](#) (INOS) [in](#) certain tissues. [The](#) expression of INOS was considered as a fundamental mechanism in the protection of parasites, [bacteria, fungi,](#)

[malignant cells, intracellular protozoa and](#) viruses [in](#) different animal species, including mammals and birds. The present study aimed to know the effect of giving glutamate as a feed additive in broilers. [MATERIALS AND METHODS Place of](#)

[study](#) This research [was conducted](#) on May-September 2018. Maintenance of broilers was conducted at the Poultry Division Field Laboratory, [Faculty of Animal](#)

[Husbandry,](#) Andalas [university, Indonesia.](#) Materials [A total of](#) 240

[one-day old male broiler chicks](#) (MB 202 from) [were purchased from](#) PT Charoen Pokphand, Indonesia. The chickens were placed randomly into 24 cage plots

(open cages), each measuring 1×1 m². [Each plot was filled with](#) 10 chickens,

equipped with food and drinking water. This broiler cage was also equipped with 1 bulb (35 Watt). The ration was prepared by itself from feed ingredients consisting of corn, commercial feed (CP511 PT, Charoen Pokphand Indonesia), fish meal, soy flour, bran, palm oil and mineral premix. Nutrient content and feed composition was indicated in tables 1 and 2. Table 1. Nutrient content of feed ingredients for broiler chickens Nutritional content (%) and Feed energy metabolism (Kcal/kg) ingredients Crude Protein Crude Fiber Crude Fat Ca P ME Corn 9.55 3.8 2.18 0.38 0.33 3300 Bran 10.6 10.84 4.09 0.7 0.09 1592 Fish flour 41 2.8 1.52 5.55 2.6 2580 Commercial Feed* Soybean Meal 23 1.88 40.16 3.58 5.87 1.37 0.29 0.63 0.15 0.32 3200 2240 Coconut oil 0 0 100 0 0 8600 Mineral Premix 0 0 0 5.38 1.14 0 ME: Energy metabolism, Ca: Calcium, P: Phosphor; *Commercial Feed: CP511 PT, Charoen Pokphand Indonesia Table 2. The composition of ration in broiler chickens Feed ingredients Percentage of ration (%) and nutrient content (%) Corn 40 Bran 7 Fish flour 17 Commercial Feed* 20 Soybean Meal 14 Coconut oil 1.5 Mineral Premix** 0.5 Total 100 Crude Protein 21.75 Crude Fiber 3.86 Crude Fat 4.12 Ca 1.50 P 0.83 ME (Kcal/kg) 2952,64 Ca: Calcium, P: Phosphor, ME: Energy metabolism; *Commercial feed: CP511 PT, Charoen Pokphand, Indonesia; **Mineral Premix: Supplemented for kg of the diets: Vit. A, 12000 IU; D3, 2000 IU; E, 20 mg; K3, 3 mg; B2, 7 mg; B3, 12 mg; B5, 3 mg; B12, 0.03 mg; biotin, 0.1 mg; choline chloride, 300 mg; Mn, 130 mg;

Fe, 70 mg; Zn, 60 mg; Cu, 12 mg; I, 1 mg; Se, 0.2 mg, and adequate antioxidant.

Method Making glutamate was done by fermentation with *Lactobacillus plantarum*. The nutritional composition of fermentation media used in this study was KH₂PO₄, MgSO₄ · 7H₂O, FeSO₄ · 7H₂O, MnSO₄ · 4-5H₂O, 9% sugar cane, 5 µ / L biotin, 90% tofu water, 10% distilled water, water starter and starter 9%. The duration of fermentation in this study was 36 hours at 36°C. After fermentation the media were centrifuged for 20 minutes and 10,000 rpm at a temperature of -4°C. After that, the supernatant was concentrated using an evaporation technique in an oven with a temperature of 40°C for 48 hours. The shrinking material was then calculated for the acid content using glutamate HPLC (Maslami et al., 2018). Maintenance of broilers

Maintenance was carried out for five weeks. Feed and drinking water were

available ad libitum. Glutamate treatment was given to chickens aged two

weeks to six weeks. Glutamate was added to drinking water. The body weight was carried out at the beginning of the study and every following week, and also at the end of the study. Weighing the rest of the feed was done every weekend. Calculations were carried out for Feed Intake (FI), Body Weight Gain (BWG), Feed Conversion Ratio

(FCR) and Carcass Percentage (CP). Maslami et al., 2019 Experiment and data analysis This study used a completely randomized design. Each treatment was

repeated four times. Each treatment and each replication consisted of 10 birds. The observed variables were just performance traits. The variable performance

included average feed intake, body weight gain, feed conversion ratio and

carcass percentage. The data obtained were analyzed using analysis of

variance (Analysis of Variance / ANOVA) and if there were differences between

treatments were tested further using the DMRT (Duncan Multiple Range

Test) tests at a level of 5% (Steel and Torrie, 1991). The dose of glutamate in drinking water is A (0.4% commercial glutamate), B (0.0% glutamate), C (0.2%

glutamate), D (0.4% glutamate), E (0.6% glutamate) and F (0.8% glutamate).
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION The results indicated that giving of glutamate had a

significant effect (P<0.05) on feed intake, body weight gain and feed conversion ratio. While the giving of glutamate did not have a significant effect

(P>0.05) on the percentage of the carcass. The average FI, BWG, FCR and CP by giving glutamate was indicated in table 3. Table 3. Effect of dietary inclusion of glutamate on broiler chicken performance for 35 days Treatment FI (g) BWG (g) A (0.4% Commercial Glutamate) 4591.13a ± 63.67 2688.5a ± 24.73 B (0 % Glutamate) 4429.05b ± 77.25 2391.50c ± 28.25 C (0.2 % Glutamate) 4478.75ab ± 84.25 2450.63c ± 54.96 D (0.4 % Glutamate) 4530.28ab ± 76.08 2573.60b ± 63.79 E (0.6 % Glutamate) 4503.70ab ± 103.94 2634.15ab ± 31.66 F (0.8% Glutamate) 4588.68a ± 26.24 2693.95a ± 74.06 FCR (%) 1.71b ± 0.03 1.85a ± 0.05 1.83a ± 0.05 1.76b ± 0.07 1.71b ± 0.04 1.70b ± 0.05 CP (%) 67.23 ± 3.52 68.76 ± 1.80 73.21 ± 3.62 70.70 ± 3.44 70.13 ± 3.04 70.47 ± 4.39 FI: Feed intake, BWG: body weight gain,

FCR: feed conversion ratio, CP: Carcass percentage. Feed intake It can be seen

that group B was not significantly different (P>0.05) in the treatment

of C, D and E (Table 3). Judging from the average value there was a tendency to increase feed consumption with an increase in the dose of glutamic acid which can be the same as the consumption of ration by providing commercial glutamate. Increased consumption of rations with the addition of glutamate caused by glutamate can

improve the quality of the digestive tract which can increase the absorption

of nutrients. According to Ebadiasl (2011) glutamate in small bowel function as the formation of intestinal mucous villi cells. Bartell and Batal (2007) reported that glutamate supplementation could improve intestinal development with an increase in

the relative weight of the duodenum and jejunum. Improving the development of

the small intestine can increase the capacity of the digestive tract to accommodate the volume of the feed so that, many different rations can be consumed by broilers. According to Ibrahim (2008), larger intestines could increase ration consumption because a larger volume of food can be accommodated, digested, and absorbed. In addition, the increase in ration consumption in this study was due to a decrease in stress on broilers. Reducing stress by adding glutamate because it can synthesize amino acids which have a role in reducing stress levels. According to Young and Ajami (2000) stated that glutamate is an amino acid builder protein which is a precursor for Gamma AminoButyric Acid (GABA). Glutamate will be converted into

GABA if broilers were under stress. According to Wang et al. (2015) and Lener et

al. (2017) GABA served to reduce stress so that it can maintain appetite and increase the efficiency of the use of body nutrients in livestock. Thus giving glutamate to broiler chickens can reduce stress by increasing feed consumption. Feed intake in

this study was between 4478.75-4588.68 g lower than that obtained by

Bezerra et al. (2015) which was 5303 g for 42 days of maintenance. Similar study was presented by Olubodun et al. (2015) that administrated 0.5% of glutamate to broilers and indicated consumption of 4083 g feed. Body weight gain The body weight gain was increased as an increasing dose of glutamate. Giving glutamate

in the treatment of F can increase weight gain, but not significantly different ($P>0.05$)

with treatment E. Body weight gain was influenced by feed consumption, the higher the consumption of food, the more weight gain was generated. According to Fadilah (2005) feed consumption had a positive effect on weight gain. Increased glutamate dose in this treatment caused by an increase in absorption of nutrients in small intestine. This is supported by the opinion of Shakeri et al. (2014) stated that administration of glutamate in broiler feed could improve small bowel development, intestinal villi length and nutrient absorption. Glutamate in the small intestine

plays a role in the mechanism of intestinal mucosal defense by

increasing the mucosal layer (Akiba et al., 2009). Increasing the inner surface

and surface area of the small intestine will increase the digestion and

absorption of feed extracts by the small intestine (Yao et al., 2006).

Giving glutamate can increase broiler weight because glutamate is a precursor

for non-essential amino acids, so it will meet the needs of several

other essential amino acids. According to Blachier et al. (2009) stated that

glutamate is a precursor to other non-essential amino acids, such as arginine,

glutamine, and proline. With the fulfillment of the need for non-essential amino acids will increase the growth of broilers. According to Ajinamoto (2007) and Maslami et al. (2018) administration of glutamate in broiler chicken feed could increase the growth of connective tissue so that, it can increase broiler body weight gain. The highest weight gain in this study was found in treatment F (2646.45 g / bird) which could match treatment A with commercial glutamate (2638.35 g / bird). The body

weight gain in broiler chickens of this study was higher than that reported

by Olubodun et al. (2005) at 42 days of age (2375 g / bird). Increased body weight gain by adding glutamate to broilers diet was reported by Porto et al. (2015). Furthermore, according to Bezerra et al. (2015) the addition of 1.76% glutamate could match the increase in broiler body weight gain without a reduction in crude protein ration. Moreover, according to this study addition of 1.76% glutamate could increase body weight gain of broilers with a crude low protein ration. Feed conversion ratio

The results indicated that treatment groups (D, E and F) gave the same low FCR, even matching treatment A with commercial glutamate. FCR was low by giving glutamate along with increased feed intake and body weight gain. A low FCR indicates an increase in feed efficiency (Razak et al., 2016). According to Usman (2009) and Zuidhof et al. (2014) the values of FCR were influenced by the amount of

feed intake and body weight gain. Another factor is the increase in feed

conversion with increasing doses because glutamate can improve the nutritional

quality of feed and the digestive system. It was reported by Andriyanto et al. (2015) the nutritional quality of feed could influence broiler feed conversion. Decreased FCR caused by administration of glutamate could improve the quality of the digestive system by increasing intestinal length thereby increasing absorption of feed

nutrients (Olubodun et al., 2015). Increasing absorption of feed nutrients causes an increase in body weight so that it will increase the efficiency of feed use. The lowest FCR in this study was 1.70 lower than Shakeri et al. (2014) stated that the FCR in broilers with administration of glutamate was 1.95 Similar results were conveyed by Zulkifli et al. (2016) giving 1% glutamate to broiler could reduce FCR to 1.81 Furthermore, according to Olubodun et al. (2015) that added 0.5% of the mixture of glutamate and glutamine to broiler chicken diet and reported reduce in FCR (1.78).

Carcass percentage [The results of statistical analysis](#) indicated [that the](#) administration [of](#) glutamate did not significantly affect [\(P>0.05\) on the](#) [percentage of](#) broiler [carcass. The](#) effect [of](#) giving glutamate on carcass percentage presented in table 3. The average carcass percentage of each treatment from treatment A to treatment F was 67.23, 68.76, 73.21, 70.70, 70.13, and 70.47% respectively. [The percentage of](#) the [carcass in this study was](#) at

the range [of](#) 67.23-73.21% which was supported by Resnawati (2004) who studied in dietary addition of glutamate in broiler chickens and stated the percentage of carcass between 68-71.8%. Glutamate is a building block of proteins that can increase protein synthesis in muscle tissue. Formation of protein in muscle tissue will affect the percentage of carcasses. According to Reeds et al. (2000), [glutamate is one](#)

[of the](#) building blocks of [amino acids](#) from proteins [that](#) make up the body's protein. CONCLUSION Addition of glutamate up to 0.8% could improve the performance of broilers for 35 days of maintenance. However, administration of glutamate did not affect the percentage of the carcass. Further researches should to be conducted to indicate the ideal glutamate dose in broilers diet. DECLARATIONS Acknowledgments All [authors are very grateful to the Minister of Research, Technology](#)

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[Professor Program](#) Scheme [123.](#) 57 / [D2.3 / KP / 2018.](#) Maslami et al., 2019 Author's contribution Vebera Maslami and Yetti Marlida conducted the research, prepared data and performed statistical analysis. Mirnawati, Jamsari and Yuliaty

Shafan Nur [wrote the](#) article. [All authors](#) checked [and](#) confirmed [the](#)

[final](#) form of article. [Competing interests The authors declare that they have no](#)

[competing interests. Consent](#) to publish All authors [gave their informed](#)

[consent](#) prior [to](#) their inclusion [in the study.](#) REFERENCES Ajinomoto AN (2007). Influence of glutamic acid on broiler carcass quality. Poultry Research Report 19. Available at: <http://www.lysine.com/pdf/poultry/prr19.pdf>. Akiba Y, Watanabe C, Mizumori M and Kaunitz JD (2009). Luminal l-glutamate enhances duodenal mucosal defense mechanisms via multiple glutamate receptors in rats. American Journal of Physiology-Gastrointest Liver Physiology, 297: 781-791. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1152/ajpgi.90605.2008> Andriyanto, Satyaningtjas AS, Yufiadri R, Wulandari R, Darwin VM and and Siburian SNA (2015). Performance and digestibility of broiler chicken feed fed with testosterone in multilevel doses. Journal Acta Veterinaria Indonesiana, 3 (1): 29-37. Bartell S and Batal A (2007). The effect of supplemental glutamine on growth performance, development of the gastrointestinal tract, and humoral immune response of broilers. Poultry Science, 86:1940-1947. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/ps/86.9.1940>. Bezerra RM, Costa GP, Givisiez PEN, Freitas ER,

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