



**UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

***GROWTH PERFORMANCE, RUMEN FERMENTATION AND MICROBIAL  
POPULATION, CARCASS CHARACTERISTICS AND MEAT FATTY ACID  
COMPOSITION OF GOATS FED DIETS BASED ON OIL PALM KERNEL  
CAKE AND DECANTER CAKE***

**ABDELRAHIM ABUBAKR MOHAMMED**

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UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA  
BERILMU BERBAKTI

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CAKE AND DECANter CAKE**

By

**ABDELRAHIM ABUBAKR MOHAMMED**

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra  
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Doctor of Philosophy**

**May 2013**

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## DEDICATIONS

TO THE SOUL OF MY MOTHER AND FATHER WITH  
SUPPLICATION FOR FORGIVENESS  
TO MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, WITH LOVE

Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**GROWTH PERFORMANCE, RUMEN FERMENTATION AND MICROBIAL POPULATION, CARCAS CHARACTERISTICS AND MEAT FATTY ACID COMPOSITION OF GOATS FED DIETS BASED ON OIL PALM KERNEL CAKE AND DECANter CAKE**

By

**ABDELRAHIM ABUBAKR MOHAMMED**

**May 2013**

**Chairman: Professor Abdul Razak Alimon, PhD**

**Faculty: Agriculture**

Shortage of feed in terms of quantity and quality is one of the most central factors that limit the development of the ruminant livestock industry in many tropical countries, including Malaysia. To overcome such problems, maximizing the use of locally available feed resources could be an alternative approach. The present study aimed to evaluate the effect of feeding diets based on palm kernel cake and decanter cake on rumen microbial population, growth performance and meat fatty acid profile of goats.

In the first study, sixteen rumen-cannulated Boer X Kacang crossbred goats were used to evaluate the effect of crude palm oil, (PO), palm kernel cake (PKC) and decanter cake (DC) on the rumen fermentation characteristics, microbial population and nutrient digestibility. Goats were fed one of the four concentrate

diets (treatments) namely, control diet (CD), decanter cake diet (DCD), palm kernel cake diet (PKCD) and CD plus 5% palm oil diet (CPOD).

Feeding DCD and PKCD appeared to modify the rumen microbial population, increasing the DNA copy number of total bacteria ( $P < 0.01$ ) and *Ruminococcus albus* ( $P < 0.01$ ). The DNA copy number of *Fibrobacter succinogenes* was lower ( $P < 0.05$ ) for the treatment CPOD compared to other treatments. The mean ciliate protozoa numbers were considerably higher for treatment CD ( $6.2 \times 10^5/\text{ml}$ ) than for other treatments (DC, DCD, PKCD and CPOD ( $2.1 \times 10^5/\text{ml}$ )) and decreased rapidly between day 4 and 6 in goats fed treatments DCD, PKCD and CPOD. Rumen methanogenic archaea was significantly reduced in goats fed PKCD ( $1.50 \times 10^9/\text{ml}$ ) and CPOD ( $1.32 \times 10^9/\text{ml}$ ) compared to that fed CD ( $2.48 \times 10^9$ ) however, their populations in goats fed DCD ( $1.96 \times 10^9/\text{ml}$ ) and CD were similar. The trend showed a severe reduction after day 4 and 6 of the start of the feeding experimental diets. Ammonia-N concentration in rumen fluid of goats was significantly lower for treatments DCD (35.0 mg/L), PKCD (34.4 mg/L) and CPOD (33.9 mg/L) than for treatment CD (49.9 mg/L) and pH was lowest for the treatment DCD (6.1) and highest for treatment PKCD (6.4). Total volatile fatty acid concentrations were significantly lower for treatment PKCD (94.8 mmol/L) and CPOD (94.4 mmol/L) than for treatment CD (98.5 mmol/L) and DCD (98.1 mmol/L).

From the results obtained in the first experiment, it was concluded that inclusion of PKC and DC in the diet of goats modified the rumen microbial

population by reducing ciliate protozoa and methanogenic archaea; and increasing total bacteria and some species of cellulolytic bacteria.

In the second study, 32 Boer x Kacang crossbred male goats were used in a 100-day experiment. Goats were randomly assigned to one of the four dietary treatments namely, control diet (CD), decanter cake diet (DCD), palm kernel cake diet (PKCD) or control diet plus 5% palm oil (CPOD). The objective was to assess the effects of these diets on growth, carcass quality, fatty acid (FA) content of meat and nitrogen (N) metabolism. Daily weight gain was significantly lower in goats fed DCD (89 g/day) and PKCD (89 g/day) compared to those fed CD (136 g/day) and CPOD (141 g/day).

Slaughter weight, and hot and cold carcass weights were higher in goats fed CPOD (34.4 kg, 16.7 kg, 16.6 kg, respectively) followed by CD (32.9 kg, 16.5 kg, 16.4 kg, respectively), DCD (25.6 kg, 13.3 kg, 13.1 kg, respectively) and PKCD (24.6 kg, 11.5 kg, 11.4 kg, respectively). Nitrogen metabolism was altered in goats received PKCD, where the excretion of N in faeces was the highest ( $p < 0.05$ ) in goats fed PKCD (5.1 g/day) and lowest in those fed CPOD (1.6 g/day). Goats fed PKCD had significantly higher C12:0 contents than those fed other diets in all muscles tested. C16:0 and C18:0 were significantly lower in muscles from goats fed CD than those fed other treatments, whereas C18:2 n-6 was highest in the muscles of goats fed CD compared to other diets. Both *longissimus dorsi* (LD) and *infraspinatus* (IS) muscles from goats fed CD had relatively lesser total saturated fatty acid (SFA) proportions; however, SFA

proportions of the muscle *biceps femoris* (BF) was similar in all dietary treatments. Additionally, the proportions of total n-6 polyunsaturated fatty acid (PUFA), n-6: n-3 ratio and PUFA/SFA were higher in the muscles of goats fed CD than those fed other diets. It was concluded that inclusion of PKC and DC in the diet of goats up to 80% resulted in daily gain of ~90 g/day which is within reported values for goats fed such agri-industrial by-products. However, fatty acid composition of meat might be altered.



Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia  
sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah

**PRESTASI PERTUMBUHAN, FEMENTASI RUMEN DAN POPULASI  
MIKROB, CIRI KARKAS DAN KOMPOSISI ASID LEMAK OTOT  
KAMBING DIBERI MAKAN DIET BERASASKAN MIL ISIRUNG KELAPA  
SAWIT DAN KEK DEKANTER**

Oleh

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**Mei 2013**

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Kekurangan makanan dari segi kuantiti dan kualiti adalah salah satu dari faktor penting yang membatasi pembangunan industri ruminan di kebanyakan negara tropika termasuk Malaysia. Untuk mengatasi masalah ini, penggunaan maksimum bahan makanan tempatan boleh menjadi pendekatan alternatif. Tujuan penyelidikan ini adalah untuk mengevaluasi kesan pemberian makanan berasaskan mil isirung kelapa sawit dan kek dekanter keatas populasi mikrob rumen, prestasi pertumbuhan dan profil asid lemak otot kambing.

Dalam ujikaji pertama, enam belas kambing kacukan Boer x Kacang, yang di pasang rumen fistula dibahagi kepada empat kumpulan untuk meneliti kesan minyak sawit mentah (PO), hampas isirung kelapa sawit (PKC) dan kek dekanter keatas populasi bacteria selulitik rumen, bilangan protozoa, ciri ciri

fermentasi rumen dan pencernaan nutrient. Kambingdiberi makan salah satu dari empat diet konsentrat (rawatan) iaitu diet control (CD), diet decanter (DCD), diet PKC (PKCD) dan CD + 5% PO (CPOD).

Pemberian diet DCD and PKCD menyebabkan perubahan pada populasi mikrob rumen, meningkatkan DNA copy number jumlah bacteria ( $p < 0.01$ ), *Fibrobacter succinogenes* ( $P < 0.05$ ), *Ruminococcus flavefaciens* ( $P < 0.05$ ) dan *Ruminococcus albus* ( $P < 0.01$ ). Min jumlah protozoa siliat adalah lebih tinggi untuk rawatan diet CD ( $6.2 \times 10^5$ ) daripada rawatan lain (DC, DCD, PKCD dan CPOD ( $2.1 \times 10^5$ )) dan menurun dengan cepat antara hari ke 4 dan ke 6 pada kambing rawatan DCD, PKCD dan CPOD. Archea metanogenik rumen menurun secara signifikan pada kambing yang diberi diet PKCD ( $1.50 \times 10^9$ ) dan CPOD ( $1.32 \times 10^9$ ) dibandingkan kambing yang diberi CD ( $2.48 \times 10^9$ ), manakala kambing yang diberi DCD ( $1.96 \times 10^9$ ) dan CD adalah sama. Ada tren yang menunjukkan penurunan yang ketara pada hari ke 4 dan ke6 selepas permulaan pemberian diet rawatan. Kepekatan Ammonia-N dalam cecair rumen adalah lebih rendah untuk rawatan DCD (35.0 mg/L), PKCD (34.4 mg/L) dan CPOD (33.9 mg/L) dibandingkan dengan rawatan CD (49.9 mg/L), manakala pH adalah rendah sejkali untuk rawatan DCD (6.1) dan tinggi sekali untuk rawatan PKCD (6.4). Kepekatan Total acid lemak meruap adalah lebih rendah untuk rawatan PKCD (94.8 mmol/L) dan CPOD (94.4 mmol/L) dibandingkan dengan rawatan CD (98.5 mmol/L) dan DCD (98.1 mmol/L).

Dari keputusan yang diperolehi dari experiment 1, adalah dirumuskan yang penambahan PKC dan DC dalam diet kambing memodifikasikan populasi bacteria rumen dengan mengurangkan protozoa siliat dan archea metanogenic; dan meningkatkan jumlah bacteria dan beberapa sepsis bacteria selulolitik.

Dalam kajian kedua, 32 ekor kambing jantan kacukan Boer x Kacang digunakan dalam kajian selama 100 hari. Kambing dibahagi kepada empat kumpulan dan diberi diet basal (control, CD), basal dicampur samada kek decanter (DC), isirung kelapa sawit (PKC) atau minyak sawit (PO). Tujuan kajian ini adalah untuk menilai kesan pemberian suplemen ini keatas pertumbuhan, kualiti karkas, kandungan asid lemak (FA) dalam daging dan metabolisme nitrogen (N). Peningkatan berat badan harian adalah lebih rendah pada kambing yang diberi DCD(89 g/hari) dan PKCD (89 g/hari) dibandingkan dengan kambing diberi DC (136 g/hari) and PO (141 g/hari).

Berat sembelih, berat karkas panas dan sejuk adalah lebih tinggi pada kambing yang diberi diet PO (masing masing 34.4 kg, 16.7 kg, 16.6 kg) diikuti dengan diet CD (masing masing 32.9 kg, 16.5 kg, 16.4 kg), CD (masing masing 25.6 kg, 13.3 kg, 13.1 kg) and PKC (masing masing 24.6 kg, 11.5 kg, 11.4 kg). Metabolisme nitrogen dalam kambing berubah apabila diberi makan PKC pada kadar yang tinggi, dimana pengeluaran N dalam tinja adalah tertinggi ( $p < 0.05$ ) dalam kambing yang diberi diet PKC (3.4 g/hari) dan terendah pada kambing yang diberi diet PO (1.6 g/hari). Kambing yang diberi diet PKC asid lemak C12:0 dalam semua daging yang diuji lebih tinggi dari diet yang lain. Asid lemak

C16:0 dan C18:0 adalah lebih rendah dalam otot kambing yang diberi diet CD dibandingkan dengan diet yang lain, manakal C18:2 n-6 adalah lebih tinggi dalam otot kambing yang diberi diet CD dibandingkan dengan lain lain diet. Kedua dua otot *longissimus dorsi* (LD) dan *infraspinatus* (IS) dari kambing yang diberi CD mempunyai total asid lemak tepu (SFA) yang rendah, tetapi jumlah SFA dalam otot *biceps femoris* (BF) adalah sama dalam semua rawatan. Proporsi total n-6 asid lemak politaktepu (PUFA), nisbah n-6:n-3 dan nisbah PUFA/SFA adalah lebih tinggi dalam otot kambing yang diberi diet CD dari diet yang lain. Adalah dirumuskan yang pemberian PKC dan DC dalam diet kambing sehingga 80% boleh meningkatkan penambahan berat sehingga 90g/hari iaitu jumlah yang biasa dilaporkan untuk kambing yang diberi makan hasil sampingan pertanian, namun, komposisi asid lemak daging mungkin berubah.

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Abu Hurairah reported: The Prophet Muhammed ﷺ said, "He has not thanked Allah who has not thanked people." [Sunan Abu Dawud, Book 40, Number 4811]. The prophet Mohammed said: who do not thank the people; he does not thank Allah, my sincere thanks to the Almighty Allah for giving me the health and patience to complete this work.

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Ultimately, I'm deeply indebted to my family for their continuous and precious supportive encouragement in various aspects during my study in Malaysia.

I certify that a thesis Examination Committee has met on 21<sup>th</sup> December 2012 to conduct the final examination of ABDELRAIM ABUBAKR MAOHAMMED on his thesis entitled "*GROWTH PERFORMANCE, RUMEN FERMENTATION AND MICROBIAL POPULATION, CARCASS CHARACTERISTICS AND MEAT FATTY ACID COMPOSITION OF GOATS FED DIETS BASED ON OIL PALM KERNEL CAKE AND DECANTER CAKE*" in accordance with Universities and university Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A) 106] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD).

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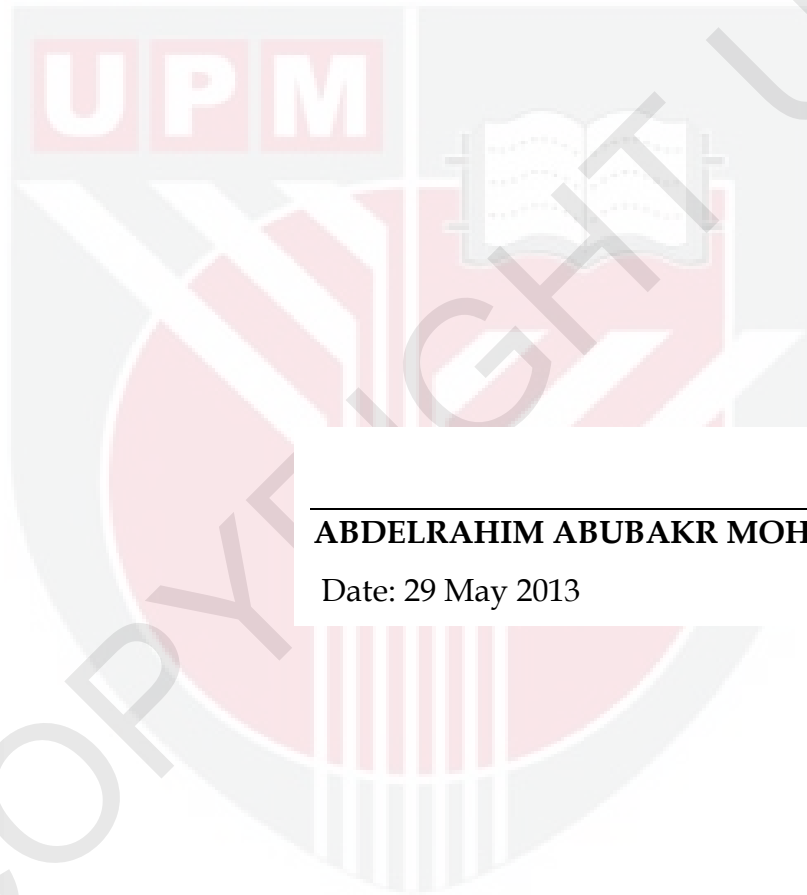
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## DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis is my original work except for quotations and citations, which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously, and is not concurrently, submitted for any other degree at Universiti Putra Malaysia or at any other institutions.



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**ABDELRAHIM ABUBAKR MOHAMMED**

Date: 29 May 2013

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADF	acid detergent fiber
ADG	average daily gain
ADIN	acid detergent insoluble nitrogen
ADL	acid detergent lignin
BF	biceps femoris
BW	body weight
CD	control diet
CETAB	cetyl trimethylammonium bromide
CP	crude protein
CPOD	control plus palm oil diet
DC	decanter cake
DCD	decanter cake diet
DGGE	denaturing gradient gel electrophoresis
DM	dry matter
DMI	dry matter intake
DNA	deoxyribonucleic acid
EE	ether extract
FA	fatty acid
FAO	food and agriculture organization

FMAE	fatty acid methyl esters
GE	gross energy
HDL	high density lipoprotein
IS	infraspinatus
LD	longissimus dorsi
LDL	low density lipoprotein
MPOB	Malaysian palm oil board
MUFA	mono unsaturated fatty acids
NAN	non-ammonia nitrogen
NCBA	National Cattlemen's Beef Association
NDF	neutral detergent fiber
OM	organic matter
OMD	organic matter digestibility
PF	palm fiber
PKC	palm kernel cake
PKCD	palm kernel cake diet
PKM	palm kernel meal
PO	palm oil
POME	palm oil mill effluent
PUFA	polyunsaturated fatty acid
rRNA	ribosomal ribonucleic acid

RT-PCR	real time polymerase chain reaction
SCFA	short chain fatty acid
SFA	saturated fatty acid
USFA	unsaturated fatty acid
VFA	volatile fatty acid



## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

The development of ruminant livestock industry in Malaysia is commonly limited by the shortage of feed resources and difficulties in providing feed in sufficient quantity and quality throughout the year. The main reason is a limited land area especially during the peak cropping periods when most of the lands are under cultivation. Consequently, the ruminant animal products namely meat and milk are not produced in sufficient amounts and most of the population needs are imported from abroad.

The shortage of feed resources is partially covered by importation of feed ingredients such as corn grain and soybean meal as sources of energy and protein, respectively. This will lead to an increase in the cost of production as feed constitutes more than 70% of the cost in livestock production systems. In addition to economic constraints, competition between human and monogastric animals limit the level of grain inclusion in ruminant diets. Therefore, the major strategy to develop ruminant livestock industry in such areas is to increase the use of available low cost, indigenous feed resources to reduce the cost of imported feed (Goh and Rajion, 2007).

The palm oil industry produces a huge amount of by-products including oil palm frond (OPF), palm press fiber (PPF), palm kernel cake (PKC) and palm oil decanter cake (DC). These by-products can be alternative, readily available and sustainable feed resources for ruminants and other farm animals as their inclusion in feeds can be an effective measure in overcoming the lack of pasture to sustain small ruminant production in palm oil producing countries including Malaysia (Wan Zahari *et al.*, 2012).

The utilization of such by-products in ruminant feeding systems is highly dependent on the nutritional status of the animal which may be affected by the efficiency of by-product fermentation by rumen microbes that yields required nutrients such as volatile fatty acids (VFA) and microbial protein. The rumen is occupied by various types of microbes including bacteria, protozoa and fungi. Bacteria are the most numerous among rumen microorganism and play a major role in the degradation of fiber. *Fibrobacter succinogenes*, *Ruminococcus albus*, and *Ruminococcus flavefaciens* are presently recognized as the major cellulolytic bacterial species found in the rumen (Forster *et al.*, 1997; Shinkai and Kobayashi, 2007). The presence or absence of rumen ciliate protozoa is reported to be associated with change in the composition of the rumen bacterial community (Ozutsumi *et al.*, 2006). The feed type is the most effective factor that can change the microbial activity in the rumen, and understanding the activity and

interaction of these microbes in the rumen of animals fed high levels of palm oil by-products is fundamental to maximize their utilization.

The acceptance of goat meat (Chevon) is increasing around the world over the last few years due to its preferable characteristics to health conscious people. The fatty acid profile of the meat is gaining attention because a high intake of saturated fatty acids is associated with human coronary heart diseases (Hu *et al.*, 1999; Givens, 2005). Although the fatty acid profile of meat in ruminants is less affected by dietary fatty acids compared to non-ruminants, there are some evidences stated that different dietary regimens can affect the fatty acid profile of meat (Bas and Morand-Fehr, 2000). Therefore, it is important to evaluate the fatty acid profile of meat produced from animals fed palm oil by-products.

### **1.1. Research problem**

The demand for animal protein is increasing with population growth, income growth and changing consumer preferences. Ruminant livestock industry improvement is always limited by shortage of feed resources in term of quality and quantity. To sustain ruminant livestock production, maximum utilization of indigenous feed ingredients could be an alternative to the high cost imported feeds.



## **1.2. Research hypothesis**

The chemical composition of palm kernel and decanter cake varies significantly depending on oil palm varieties and extraction method. Even though, they could be included in the ration of ruminants to the maximum levels. Due to the relatively high contents of oil in both palm kernel cake and decanter cake, we hypothesized that their inclusion in high levels in the diet of goats might alter the microbial population in the rumen which in turn might affect the nutrient digestion since the rumen microbes are the key factors in the digestion process. Moreover, we hypothesized that the inclusion of high levels of palm kernel cake and decanter cake expected to affect the fat deposition in the carcass of goats and the fatty acid profile in the muscles.

## **1.3. Objectives**

Based on the above mentioned consideration, a study was conducted to evaluate the utilization of palm kernel cake and decanter fed at high levels to local goats.

Two experiments were carried out for this purpose. The specific objectives of the research were:

1. To evaluate the fermentation characteristics, microbial population and nutrient digestibility in the rumen of goats fed diets based on palm kernel cake and decanter cake.
2. To evaluate the growth performance, nitrogen metabolism and carcass measurements in goats fed on diets based on palm kernel cake and decanter cake.
3. To evaluate the carcass characteristics and meat muscle fatty acid composition of goats fed diets based on palm kernel cake and decanter cake.

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