



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**EFFECT OF CORN SUBSTITUTION AS ENERGY SOURCE IN PALM
KERNEL CAKE AND UREA TREATED RICE STRAW- BASED DIET IN
DORPER CROSSBRED LAMBS**

OSAMA ANWER SAEED

FP 2018 33



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**Thesis Submitted to School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in
Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy**

February 2018

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to the memory of Commander Ayman Ahmad Saeed and Bassam Jubair; those who lost their lives to light up our road to freedom. The gratitude has finally conquered the loss. Today my city has been retaken and we will rebuild it with pride and gratitude in memory of their sacrifices.



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

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February 2018

Chairman : Associate Professor Anjas Asmara @ Ab. Hadi Bin Samsudin, PhD
Faculty : Agriculture

Modern ruminant production has become increasingly affected by current economic trends. In recent years, dramatic increases in the price of feedstuffs caused by competition for human consumption. Feed accounts for 50% to 75% of total production costs in the livestock industry, making it one of the largest expenses for producers. As the land available for agricultural production is decreasing, and the price of feed inputs increasing, it has become more important for producers to understand the potential value of utilizing byproducts as part of a feeding program.

This study investigated corn substitution and its effect on PKC and urea-treated rice straw-based diet on the rumen fermentation, biohydrogenation and growth performance of Dorper crossbred lambs. Apart from that, hematological and biochemical profile of blood serum; carcass characteristics and quality of meat were also examined in this study. Two experiments involving *in vitro* rumen fermentation and *in vivo* feeding trials were conducted.

For the *in vitro* rumen fermentation analysis, three treatment groups with different level of corn were used; namely T1 = basal diet (control); T2 = basal diet + 5% corn and T3 = basal diet +10% corn. In this study, corn was used as a source of energy. The T1, T2 and T3 were incubated from 0 h until 72 h to determine the fermentation profiles, fatty acid biohydrogenation and also rumen microbial population.

The second experiment involved 27 Dorper crossbred lambs (initial b/w 15 + 0.59 Kg) that individually kept in single pens and were randomly divided into 3 formulated dietary group consisting of T1 = 75.3% PKC + 0% corn; T2 = 70.3% PKC + 5% corn and T3 = 65.3% PKC + 10% corn. Feed intake and refusal were recorded on a daily

basis. Blood samples for hematological and biochemical tests were collected from all the lambs at days 0, 40, 80, 120 of the experiment periods.

The results of the *in vitro* study demonstrated that production of gas increased from 0 h until 9 h with T2 having the highest gas production during this phase. After 48 h, the gas production began to decrease gradually with increase in incubation time. No significant differences ($P>0.05$) were observed in the *in vitro* dry matter digestibility (IVDMD), *in vitro* organic matter digestibility (IVOMD), $\text{NH}_3\text{-N}$, and pH at 72 h. However, significant production of methane gas levels was noted in T3 which showed the highest CH_4 concentration in comparison with the control group (T1) and T2. The population of microbials revealed that number of total methanogenic archaea increased at 24 h with T1 having the highest number followed by T3 and T2. However, no significant differences were observed between treatment groups for total bacteria, *F. succinogenes* and *R. flavefaciens*. The mean concentration of protozoa at 24 h revealed that T2 had the highest number of protozoa than others ($P<0.001$).

Results of the *in vivo* feeding study demonstrated that diets substituted with corn were nearly similar in DM, CP, EE, and ash contents. Significant differences were observed on the final body weight among the different treatment diets. Furthermore, significant differences were observed for ADG in T3 than the other two treatments while the average daily feed intake was significant ($P<0.05$) for lambs fed on diet substituted 10% corn and 65.3% PKC was higher than the control lambs. It was found that lambs fed on diet substituted with 5% and 10% corn had highest ($P<0.05$) DMI than those substituted 0% corn. Moreover, biological values and protein efficiency ratios were significantly raised in lambs fed on diet contain 10% corn than those contain with 0% and 5% corn. However, significant differences in the number of protozoa demonstrated with T3 followed by T2 and T1 ($P<0.05$) but no differences of total bacteria, *F. succinogenes*, *R. albus* and methanogenic archaea. The number of *R. flavefaciens* was highest in T2 and T3 compared with T1.

Substitution 5% and 10% corn as source of energy on the hematological and biochemical parameters in lambs has no effect on the serum appeared to be within a normal range. The serum antioxidant enzyme (GPx) demonstrates a reduction of GPx in T3 at day 120, but not in T2 where the GPx concentration in serum increased. The MDA was not affected by supplements within the same period. Feeding PKC significantly increased Cu retention by 2.06, 4.19, and 4.14 mg/d respectively in the body. Zinc concentration in the serum, liver, and kidney also increased slightly when corn is added as an energy source in the diet. Serum Cu, Se, Fe, and Zn did not differ ($P>0.05$) between treatment groups, but Se and Fe were higher ($P<0.05$) at day 120, especially in T3 compared to T1. The concentration of serum Zn was lower (2.27 ppm) in T2 and T3 within the same period. The real-time PCR analyses revealed significant ($P<0.01$) up-regulation of ATP7A and MT-Ia genes in T3 while, hepatic Cu/Zn SOD and GPx4 mRNA were high expression in lamb hepatocytes in T3 compared with T1.

The smallest hot carcass weight (10.15 kg) was seen in lambs fed on the control diet, whereas lambs fed diet has 10% corn has the highest hot carcass weight (11.46 kg). Hot and cold dressing percentages on slaughter weight of lambs fed on 5% and 10% corn shows no significantly ($P>0.05$) different with the control group. The highest pH value of *supraspinatus* and *longissimus lumborum* muscles were influenced by supplement treatment T2 and T3 (5.76, 6.11, and 5.76) and (5.63, 6.15, and 5.85) respectively. Further, the L* value (lightness index) of the same muscle differed ($P<0.001$) among all three treatments and the a* (redness index) and b* (yellowness index) values were not significant in the treatment groups.

Dietary substitution of corn into the PKC-based diet can be used to enhance the useful fatty acids in muscles and offal without having to compromise the rumen microbial metabolism, growth performance, serum biochemistry, carcass traits, and meat quality in lambs.

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

KESAN MENAMBAH TENAGA KE DALAM DIET ISIRONG KELAPA SAWIT DAN JERAMI PADI DIRAWAT UREA BAGI ANAK BIRI-BIRI DORPER

Oleh

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Februari 2018

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Kajian ini menyiasat kesan diet suplemen tenaga PKC dan jerami dirawat urea pada fermentasi rumen, biohidrogenasi dan prestasi pertumbuhan. Selain itu, profil hematologi dan biokimia serum darah, ciri-ciri karkas dan kualiti daging turut diperhatikan. Dua eksperimen yang melibatkan fermentasi *in vitro* rumen dan dalam ujian makan *in vivo* telah dilakukan.

Untuk analisis fermentasi *in vitro* rumen, tiga kumpulan rawatan dengan tahap tenaga yang berbeza telah digunakan; iaitu T1 = diet basal (kawalan); T2 = diet dasar + 5% tenaga dan T3 = diet dasar + 10% tenaga. Dalam kajian ini, jagung digunakan sebagai sumber tenaga. Kumpulan rawatan telah diinkubasikan dari 0 jam hingga 72 jam untuk menentukan profil fermentasi, biohidrogenasi asid lemak dan juga populasi mikroorganisma rumen.

Eksperimen kedua melibatkan sebanyak 27 anak biri-biri Dorper (awal b/w 15 + 0.59 Kg) yang disimpan secara individu dalam petak individu dan dibahagikan secara rawak kepada 3 kumpulan diet yang dirumuskan secara isokolorik dan isonitogenik konsisten dengan T1 = 75.3% PKC + 0% tenaga, T2 = 70.3% PKC + 5% tenaga, dan T3 = 65.3% PKC + 10% tenaga. Pengambilan dan lebihan makanan dicatat setiap hari. Sampel darah untuk hematologi dan biokimia dikumpulkan dari semua anak biri-biri pada hari 0, 40, 80, 120 tempoh percubaan.

Hasil kajian *in vitro* menunjukkan peningkatan produksi gas secara linear dari 0 jam hingga 9 jam dengan T2 mempunyai pengeluaran gas tertinggi selama fasa ini. Selepas 48 jam, pengeluaran gas mula berkurangan secara perlahan seiring dengan peningkatan masa inkubasi. Tiada perbezaan ketara ($P>0.05$) dalam pencernaan bahan kering *in vitro* (IVDMD), bahan organik *in vitro* (IVOMD), $\text{NH}_3\text{-N}$, dan pH pada 72 jam. Bagaimanapun, pengeluaran yang signifikan pada tahap gas metana dicatat pada T3 yang mempunyai kepekatan tertinggi CH_4 berbanding dengan kumpulan kawalan (T1) dan T2. Populasi mikroorganisma menunjukkan jumlah arkea metanogenik meningkat pada 24 jam dengan T1 mempunyai bilangan tertinggi diikuti oleh T3 dan T2. Bagaimanapun, tidak terdapat perbezaan yang signifikan antara kumpulan rawatan untuk jumlah keseluruhan bakteria, *F. succinogenes* dan *R. flavefaciens*. Purata populasi protozoa pada 24 jam menunjukkan bahawa T2 mempunyai bilangan protozoa tertinggi berbanding yang lain ($P<0.001$).

Dari hasil kajian pemakanan *in vivo* menunjukkan bahawa diet yang mengandungi tenaga merekodkan DM, CP, EE, dan kandungan abu yang hampir serupa. Perbezaan diperhatikan pada berat badan terakhir di kalangan diet rawatan yang berbeza. Di samping itu, terdapat perbezaan yang ketara bagi ADG di T3 berbanding dengan dua rawatan lain manakala pengambilan makanan harian purata adalah signifikan ($P<0.05$) untuk biri-biri yang diberi makan 10% tahap tenaga dan 65.3% PKC berbanding dengan anak biri-biri kawalan. Didapati bahawa kambing yang diberi makan dengan 5% dan 10% tenaga mempunyai DMI tertinggi ($P<0.05$) dari yang diberi makan 0% tenaga. Lebih-lebih lagi, nilai biologi dan nisbah kecekapan protein jauh lebih tinggi pada kambing yang diberi 10% jagung daripada yang diberi makan 0% dan 5% jagung. Bagaimanapun, perbezaan yang signifikan terdapat dalam bilangan menunjukkan dengan T3 diikuti oleh T2 dan T1 ($P<0.05$) tetapi tiada perbezaan pada jumlah total bakteria, *F. succinogenes*, *R. albus* and methanogenic arkea. Bilangan *R. flavefaciens* adalah tertinggi di T2 dan T3 berbanding dengan T1.

Penambahan jagung sebanyak 5% dan 10% sebagai sumber tenaga pada hematologi dan biokimia pada anak biri-biri tidak mempunyai kesan dan kedua-dua profil hematologi dan biokimia berada dalam lingkungan yang normal. Enzim serum antioksidan (GPx) menunjukkan pengurangan GPx dalam T3 pada hari 120, tetapi tidak di T2 di mana kepekatan GPx dalam serum meningkat. TBARS tidak terjejas oleh makanan tambahan dalam tempoh yang sama. Memberi makan PKC dengan ketara meningkatkan pengekalan Cu sebanyak 2.06, 4.19, dan 4.14 mg/d dalam tubuh. Kepekatan zink dalam serum, hati, dan buah pinggang juga meningkat sedikit apabila tenaga ditambah dalam diet. Serum Cu, Se, Fe, dan Zn tidak berbeza ($P>0.05$) antara kumpulan rawatan, tetapi Se dan Fe lebih tinggi ($P<0.05$) pada hari 120, terutamanya dalam T3 berbanding dengan T1. Kepekatan serum Zn lebih rendah (2.27 ppm) dalam T2 dan T3 dalam tempoh yang sama. Analisis PCR masa nyata menunjukkan peningkatan ATP7A dan MT-Ia gen di T3, manakala Cu/Zn SOD, GPx1 dan GPx4 mRNA hepatic adalah tinggi dalam hepatosit kambing di T3 berbanding dengan T1 (kumpulan kawalan).

Berat karkas panas terkecil (10.15 kg) dilihat pada anak biri-biri yang diberi makan diet kawalan, manakala anak biri-biri yang diberi makan dengan 10% tenaga mempunyai berat badan panas tertinggi (11.46 kg). Peratusan berpakaian panas dan dingin pada berat penyembelihan tidak signifikan ($P > 0.05$) pada anak biri-biri yang ditambah. Nilai pH tertinggi *supraspinatus* dan otot *lumborum longissimus* dipengaruhi oleh rawatan tambahan T2 dan T3 (5.76, 6.11, dan 5.76) dan (5.63, 6.15 dan 5.85) masing-masing. Selanjutnya, nilai L^* pada otot yang sama berbeza ($P < 0.001$) di antara ketiga-tiga rawatan dan nilai a^* dan b^* tidak signifikan dalam kumpulan rawatan.

Suplemen tenaga makanan kedalam diet berasaskan PKC boleh digunakan untuk meningkatkan asid lemak berfaedah dalam otot dan asali tanpa mengorbankan metabolisme mikroba rumen, prestasi pertumbuhan, biokimia serum, sifat karkas, dan kualiti daging anak biri-biri.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My sincere thanks to the Almighty Allah for blessing me the health and patience to complete this work. The Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, said: He has not thanked Allah who has not thanked people.

First, and foremost, it is my greatest pleasure to thank my supervisor, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Anjas Asmara @ Ab Hadi Bin Samsudin, who has given me the strength each day to pursue this degree. His kindness and constant encouragement and invigorating talks rejuvenated my spirits during this entire period. To him I am and will always be most grateful.

Also, I want to thank the members of my supervisory committee: Assoc Prof Dr. Awis Qurni Bin Sazili, and Dr. Henny Akit, for their guidance and support throughout this research. I want to express my appreciation to Prof Abdul Razak Alimon for his constant motivation and technical support throughout this research. I am thankful to have been able to learn from these exceptional educators and hope that one day I will be able to pass on what I have learned from them to others.

My sincere gratitude goes to Prof Loh Teck Chwen and all the staff of the Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, UPM for assisting in teaching me how to use their equipment. And to the staff of ruminant farm of the Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, UPM, I say a big thank you for your cooperation and assistance to me while carrying out my experiments.

I would like to thank the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Iraq for funding my study. Special gratitude goes to the University of Al Anbar and special thanks to the Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, UPM, for all their help and encouragement throughout this academic journey.

To my family, words will always be inadequate to express my gratitude for their love and unending support. To my father may, Allah make Jannatul Firdaus your resting place; to my mother, brother and sister, your love, support and encouragement will always be remembered and appreciated.

I would like to thank Shuye Lim, through good times and bad, your kindness and extensive support have been ever present in this important time of my life, for which I am eternally grateful.

I am grateful to Stephini Jotham for her help and support throughout this research. I have no words to extend my heartiest thanks to Dr Azad Sabow, Dr Mahdi Ebrahimi, Dr Zeaid Agwani, Dr Adeyemi Kazeem Dr Ahmed Khalaf and to Dr Kifah Odhaib, Mrs Dalia Abdullah, Mr Mohamad Farooq, Mr Humam Ali, Mr Amar Iberahim for their great cooperation whenever it was needed. I am also thankful to all my friends, Dr Leo Teik Kee, Dr Atique Behan, Mr Muideen Ahmed, Mr Suni Umar, Mr Hamid, Mr Abu Baker Sadeq, Ahmed Shawky, Mr Sani Garba, and Dr Tanber Ahmed for having a nice time with me during my study. I'm grateful to my colleagues, Izudden, Nabiala, Nadirah and Lyana. It is also with much gratitude that I thank my little family here: Mr Ayman, Mr Hazim, Mr Talal and finally to my inspiration, our little girl, Laujin.



This thesis was submitted to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia and has been accepted as fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. The members of the Supervisory Committee were as follows:

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADF	Acid detergent fiber
ADL	Acid detergent lignin
ANOVA	Analysis of variance
AST	Aspartate Aminotransferase
BH	Biohydrogenation
cal	Calorie
CETAB	Cetyltrimethylammonium bromide
CF	Crude fiber
CLA	Conjugated linoleic acid
CP	Crude protein
CPOB	Palm oil blend
Cu	Copper
d	Day
DE	Digestible energy
DM	Dry matter
DMD	Dry matter digestibility
DMI	Dry matter intake
DOMI	Digestibility organic matter intake
DOMR	Digestible organic matter in the rumen
EE	Ether extraction
Emns	Efficiency of microbial nitrogen supply
FA	Fatty acid
Fe	Iron
FAME	Fatty acid methyl esters

g	Gram
GLM	Generalized linear model
GP _x	Glutathione peroxidase
GP _{x1}	Glutathione peroxidase 1 gene
GP _{x4}	Glutathione peroxidase 4 gene
h	Hour
IVDMD	<i>In vitro</i> dry matter digestibility
L	Litre
LDH	Lipoprotein density high
LW	Live weigh
LWG	Live weight gain
LL	<i>Longissimus lumborum</i> muscle
m	Meter
MDA	Malondialdehyde
ME	Metabolizable energy
min	Minute
μL	Microliter
ml	Millilitres
mm	Millimetre
mmol/L	Millimoles per liter
MN	Microbial nitrogen
MNPD	Daily duodenal flow of microbial N
MT-Ia	Metallothionein - Ia gene
MTP	Microbial true protein
MUFA	Monounsaturated fatty acid
N	Nitrogen

NDF	Neutral detergent fiber
°C	Degrees centigrade
OM	Organic matter
OMD	Organic matter digestibility
PD	Purine derivative
PDa	Microbial purine absorbed
PDe	Total purine excreted in urine
pH	Potential Hydrogen
PKC	Palm kernel cake
PKM	Palm kernel meal
POR	<i>Pleurotus ostreatus</i>
PPR	<i>Pleurotus pulmonarius</i>
PTR	<i>Pleurotus tuber-regium</i>
PUFA	Polyunsaturated fatty acid
Se	Selenium
SEM	Mean of standard error
SOD	Cu/Zn Superoxide Dismutase gene
SS	<i>Supraspinatus</i> muscle
ST	<i>Semitendinosus</i> muscle
TMR	Total mixed ration
VFA	Volatile fatty acid
Zn	Zinc

CHAPTER 1

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

The livestock industry is one of important component of the Malaysian agricultural sector which mainly comprises of buffalo, cattle, goats, sheep, swine and poultry which represent 0.04%, 0.24%, 0.14%, 0.05%, 0.75% and 98.78% respectively among others (DVS, 2016). However, while the sheep industry is progressively growing, it faces some challenges such as scarcity of feed source, low returns and competition between local meat production versus meat importation (Chen, 1984). The total number of sheep in Malaysia is estimated to be at 145,999 head (DVS, 2016). The current self-sufficient level for sheep and goat production in Malaysia is estimated to be around 30% (Hashim, 2015). The per capita intake of mutton in year 2015 is estimated to be around 1.25 kg/year/person (DVS, 2016). Sheep vary in fat deposition presumably due to their adoption of various adaptation strategies. Unlike goats which tend to set aside more internal fat that is not related to the carcass, sheep have more subcutaneous and intramuscular fat from excess energy. Sheep make a significant contribution to the household economy in areas where carcass fat is a delicacy and fetches a higher price (Hirpa & Abebe, 2008). The shortage and higher prices of livestock feedstuff in Malaysia and other countries has affected its availability especially in areas where it competes with human on cereal consumption needs.

To overcome this challenge, palm kernel cake (PKC) has been used as animal feedstuff in countries like Malaysia. Palm kernel cake, which is extracted from palm oil, is a potential feedstuff for ruminants in Malaysia due to its availability and comparatively lower price than the other concentrate – based diet (Okeudo *et al.*, 2006; Adeshinwa, 2007). Palm kernel cake has a moderate crude protein content of between 16-18% (Alimon, 2004). Although, it is abundant and been widely used as ruminant feed, sheep is the only ruminant species that are peculiarly sensitive to Cu toxicity in their diets. The copper (Cu) concentration in the PKC is estimated about 28.5 mg kg⁻¹. Sheep liver cells have a high affinity for Cu which are excreted into the bile in small doses and lead to an eventual build-up of liver Cu concentrations (Jaiswal *et al.*, 2015).

There have been some extensive studies on the effects of reducing Cu toxicity involving the use of chelating agents such as sodium sulfate, ammonium molybdate, zinc sulfate, and sodium molybdate according to studies reported by Hair Bejo & Alimon, (1992), Rahman *et al.* (1989), Yusoff *et al.* (1995) and Hair Bejo *et al.* (1995). However, most of the currently used chelating agents have serious adverse effects and associated risks such as heart disease and autism in human (Angle, 1996; Flora & Pachauri, 2010; Mandal, 2014). Earlier studies on Cu toxicity therapy have not dealt with natural protection that could allow for its elimination through the production of compounds that would prevent Cu uptake. Rumen protozoa have been implicated in Cu toxicity. Where the protozoas decrease Cu solubility in the rumen and its concentration in the livers of sheep when different feed formulations such as 2%

bentonite + PKC or corn silage with or without soybean meal were employed (Ivan *et al.*, 1986; Abdullah *et al.*, 1995; Ivan *et al.*, 1999).

Ebrahimi *et al.* (2007) reported that increasing energy levels in a PKC-based diet enhances feed intake and the average daily gain in sheep. Enriching diets with energy allows the protozoa to assimilate soluble sugars and preserve some of them in reserve polysaccharides which can reduce the risk of acidosis after feed consumption with high concentrations of easily digestible sugars (Van Zwieten *et al.*, 2008).

There is a need to understand how energy can be enhanced in conventional PKC diets in sheep at low cost without compromising their rumen metabolism, blood parameters, and meat quality. This study examines the effects of substitution of corn as source of energy into PKC as a basal diet on the rumen metabolism, growth performance, blood profiles, carcass traits and meat quality in sheep. The current research will contribute to the efforts of producing healthier Dorper lambs to meet the enhanced expectations of consumers as well as provide value-added economic benefits to them.

It was hypothesized that substitution corn into PKC-urea treated rice straw diet will provide sufficient energy requirement in lambs which may improve the growth rate and overall performance. This study sought to establish the optimum level of PKC-urea treated rice straw substituted with different levels of corn as source of energy required to enhance the growth performance, rumen ecology, and digestibility, as well as the antioxidant capacity and physiological performances of Dorper crossbred sheep. To materialize these, the study was done and put focus on several specific objectives such as:

- i. to determine the effect of PKC-urea-treated rice straw substituted with different levels of corn on biohydrogenation and *in-vitro* rumen fermentation profiles.
- ii. to determine the effect of PKC-urea-treated rice straw substituted with various levels of corn on feed intake, growth performance, digestibility and rumen metabolism in Dorper crossbred sheep.
- iii. to determine the optimal level of corn into PKC-urea-treated rice straw based diet on hematology, biochemistry, mineral metabolism and antioxidant capacity.
- iv. to determine the use of PKC-urea-treated rice straw substituted with various corn levels on carcass characteristics and meat quality.

Hypothesis

- i. Feeding sheep on the PKC substituted with different levels of corn together with urea-treated rice straw as a source of roughages will improve growth performance, and may effect on the rumen microbial population, mineral metabolism and antioxidant capacity.
- ii. Substitution of different levels of corn with PKC and urea-treated rice straw based diet will affect on the fat deposition in the carcass and the fatty acid profile in the muscles.



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The student was born in AL-Anbar, Iraq, in 1984. He received the Bachelor degree in Animal Science from 2006 to 2009 and he joined the Master degree in Animal Nutrition from the University of AL-Anbar, Iraq, in 2009 and graduated in 2012. He has been joined the Department of Animal Science, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) in 2014, as a PhD Student. His main research area are: natural feed additives in livestock as growth promoters; nutrition and animal physiology in sheep



LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

- Saeed** OA, Samsudin, AA, Sazili AQ, Akit H. (2016). Effect of Supplementing Energy to Palm Kernel Cake Diets with Rice Straw – Urea Treated on Rumen Fermentation Characteristics in Dorper Sheep. Annual Conference of the Malaysian Society of Animal Production (MSAP)/ June 2016.
- Saeed** OA, Samsudin AA, Sazili AQ, Akit H. (2016). Effect of Energy Supplementation on Growth Performance of Dropor Sheep. Proceeding 3rd Animal Production International Seminar (3rd APIS) & 3rd ASEAN Regional Conference on Animal Production (3rd ARCAP).
- Saeed** OA, Sazili AQ, Akit H, Alimon AR, Mazlan M, Samsudin AA. (2018). Effects of Corn Inclusion as Energy into Palm Kernel Cake Based-Diet on the Growth Efficiency and Carcass Characteristics of Dorper Sheep. *Tropical Animal Science Journal*.41 (1): 29-36.
- Saeed** OA, Leo TK, Sazili AQ, Akit H, Jahromi MF, Alimon AR, Samsudin AA. (2018). Effect of Dietary Supplementation of Energy into PKC – Urea Treated Rice Straw Based Diet on the Antioxidant Enzyme Activity and Gene Expression in Dorper Sheep. *BMC Veterinary Research*. (Manuscript ID: BVET-D-17-00706).
- Saeed** OA, Sazili AQ, Akit H, Alimon AR, Samsudin AA. (2018). Effect of variations of energy supplements on the hematological and biochemical indices of Dorper sheep fed on palm kernel cake as basal. *Italian Journal of Animal Science*.
- Saeed** OA, Sazili AQ, Akit H, Mahdi E, Alimon AR, Samsudin AA. (2018). Effects of various levels of corn supplementation into PKC-urea treated rice straw basal diet on meat quality and fatty acid composition of Dorper sheep. *Tropical Animal Health and Production Journal*. (Manuscript ID: TROP-D-18-00189).
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