



**UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

***IMPROVING NUTRITIVE QUALITY OF PALM KERNEL CAKE FOR  
POULTRY FEEDING UNDER HIGH ENVIRONMENTAL TEMPERATURE***

**MUHAMAD HAKIM MOHD ALI HANAFIAH**

**IPTSM 2021 17**



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**By**

**MUHAMAD HAKIM MOHD ALI HANAFIAH**

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies,  
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Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy**

**March 2021**

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

## **IMPROVING NUTRITIVE QUALITY OF PALM KERNEL CAKE FOR POULTRY FEEDING UNDER HIGH ENVIRONMENTAL TEMPERATURE**

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**March 2021**

**Chairman : Prof. Dato' Zulkifli bin Idrus, PhD**  
**Institute : Institute of Tropical Agriculture and Food Security**

There has been little information on the digestibility of amino acids (AA) of treated palm kernel cake (PKC) with many inconsistencies between existing limited studies on the apparent metabolizable energy (AME) of PKC/treated PKC for broiler chickens, especially when considering high ambient temperature into account. Besides that, previous studies on the feeding of higher PKC level in poultry diet has always been incorporated with a high level of oil to compensate for the lack of available energy due to the presence of high fiber in PKC. Hence, three experiments were carried out aimed to evaluate the effects of physical and biological treatments on the nutritive quality of PKC for broiler chickens under high environmental temperature. For the first experiment, untreated PKC (UPKC), shell-less PKC (SPKC), enzyme treated PKC (EPKC), extruded PKC (XPKC), or extruded shell-less PKC (XSPKC) were fed to broilers under two environmental temperatures (24°C or 34°C for 6 h daily) to determine AME and crude protein (CP) digestibility by using difference method. EPKC had the highest AME and CP digestibility, while high ambient temperature (34°C) lower AME and CP digestibility in all PKC. In the second trial, UPKC, EPKC, extruded PKC with lower cooking temperature (XPKC-II), and lactic acid bacteria fermented PKC (LPKC) were compared for their passage rate (ROP), AME and AA digestibility in broilers under the hot and humid environmental condition. Difference method and direct method were used to determine AME and AA digestibility, respectively. LPKC had similar AME with EPKC and XPKC-II, but demonstrated highest AA digestibility. All treatments showed no effects on ROP. The study proceeds with comparing LPKC and UPKC at different oil inclusion in broiler diets. At the finisher phase, 20% of LPKC or untreated PKC were included in broiler's diets with either 5 or 9.5% oil supplementation. LPKC and UPKC diets had no effect on broiler's growth but both diets require higher levels of dietary fat to maintain optimum growth performance. Higher level of oil supplementation in LPKC based diets reduced cecal population of *E. coli* and serum levels of TG, unlike the UPKC based diets. Feeding LPKC and UPKC diets at the finisher

phase has not affected the nutrients digestibility, but a higher level of oil supplementation does. This was seconded by changes in the digestive enzyme activity, villus height, and mRNA expression of nutrient transporters in the higher level of oil supplemented diets fed chickens. In conclusion, LAB fermentation improved the nutritive quality of PKC for heat-stress broilers, however LPKC feeding in the finisher phase had no improvement on the growth performance but reduced gut pathogenic bacteria and blood lipid concentration. Higher oil inclusion in LPKC/UPKC diet is necessary to ensure optimum growth in chicken via improved digestive function. Such formulation/strategies could be potential for utilization of agro waste-based feed in commercial poultry production under hot and humid environmental condition.



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

**PENAMBAHBAIKAN KUALITI NUTRISI ISIRUNG KELAPA SAWIT BAGI  
KEGUNAAN MAKANAN POLTRI DI BAWAH SUHU PERSEKITARAN YANG  
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Data mengenai pencernaan asid amino (AA) dalam hampas isirung kelapa sawit (PKC) yang dirawat adalah terhad, serta wujud banyak percanggahan antara kajian yang sedia ada tentang tenaga metabolisme nyata (AME) PKC / PKC yang dirawat untuk kegunaan ayam pedaging, terutama di bawah suhu persekitaran yang tinggi. Kajian-kajian terdahulu sering meningkatkan pemberian minyak di dalam diet unggas apabila PKC diberi pada kadar yang tinggi bagi mengimbangi kekurangan tenaga yang berpunca daripada kandungan serat yang tinggi pada PKC. Oleh itu, tiga eksperimen dijalankan untuk menilai kesan rawatan fizikal dan biologi terhadap kualiti nutrien PKC untuk kegunaan ayam pedaging di bawah suhu persekitaran yang tinggi. Untuk eksperimen pertama, PKC yang tidak dirawat (UPKC), PKC kurang cangkerang (SPKC), PKC yang dirawat dengan enzim (EPKC), PKC yang diekstrusi (XPKC), atau PKC kurang cangkerang yang diekstrusi (XSPKC) diberi kepada ayam pedaging yang ditenak pada suhu persekitaran yang berbeza (24°C atau 34°C selama 6 jam setiap hari) untuk menentukan nilai AME dan kadar pencernaan protein kasar (CP) dengan menggunakan kaedah perbezaan. EPKC mempunyai AME dan kadar pencernaan CP tertinggi, sementara suhu persekitaran tinggi (34°C) menjejaskan AME dan kadar pencernaan CP pada semua jenis PKC. Dalam percubaan kedua, UPKC, EPKC, PKC yang diekstrusi dengan suhu yang lebih rendah (XPKC-II), dan PKC terfermentasi bakteria asid laktik (LAB) (LPKC) diberi kepada ayam pedaging di bawah cuaca persekitaran yang panas dan lembap untuk menilai kadar laluan makanan (ROP), AME dan kadar pencernaan AA. Kaedah perbezaan digunakan untuk menentukan AME manakala kaedah langsung digunakan untuk menilai pencernaan AA. LPKC mempunyai AME yang serupa dengan EPKC dan XPKC-II, tetapi mempunyai pencernaan AA tertinggi. Semua rawatan tidak menunjukkan kesan terhadap ROP. Kajian ini diteruskan dengan membandingkan LPKC dan UPKC dengan kadar minyak yang berbeza dalam diet ayam pedaging. Pada fasa penamat, 20% LPKC atau PKC yang tidak

dirawat dimasukkan ke dalam diet ayam pedaging dengan tambahan 5 atau 9.5% minyak. Diet LPKC dan UPKC yang tidak dirawat tidak mempengaruhi pertumbuhan ayam pedaging tetapi kedua-dua diet memerlukan kandungan minyak yang lebih tinggi untuk mengekalkan prestasi pertumbuhan yang optimum. Kadar minyak yang lebih tinggi dalam diet LPKC mengurangkan populasi *E. coli* di dalam usus dan kadar trigliserida dalam darah, berbanding diet PKC. Kadar pemberian minyak yang lebih tinggi meningkatkan pencernaan nutrient di dalam diet LPKC dan UPKC. Ini dibuktikan oleh perubahan dalam aktiviti enzim pencernaan, ketinggian villus, dan ekspresi mRNA pengangkut nutrient pada kadar pemberian minyak yang lebih tinggi di dalam diet ayam pedaging. Kesimpulannya, fermentasi LAB meningkatkan kualiti nutrien PKC untuk kegunaan ayam dibawah tekanan haba, namun pemberian makanan LPKC pada fasa penamat tidak menunjukkan peningkatan pada prestasi pertumbuhan tetapi mengurangkan bakteria patogen di dalam usus dan kandungan lemak di dalam darah. Pemberian kadar minyak yang lebih tinggi dalam diet LPKC / UPKC diperlukan untuk memastikan pertumbuhan ayam yang optimum melalui pembaikan fungsi pencernaan. Formulasi diet atau strategi ini berpotensi untuk memanfaatkan penggunaan makanan ternakan yang berasaskan sisa agro-industri dalam produksi unggas komersial di bawah cuaca persekitaran yang panas dan lembap.

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This thesis was submitted to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia and has been accepted as fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

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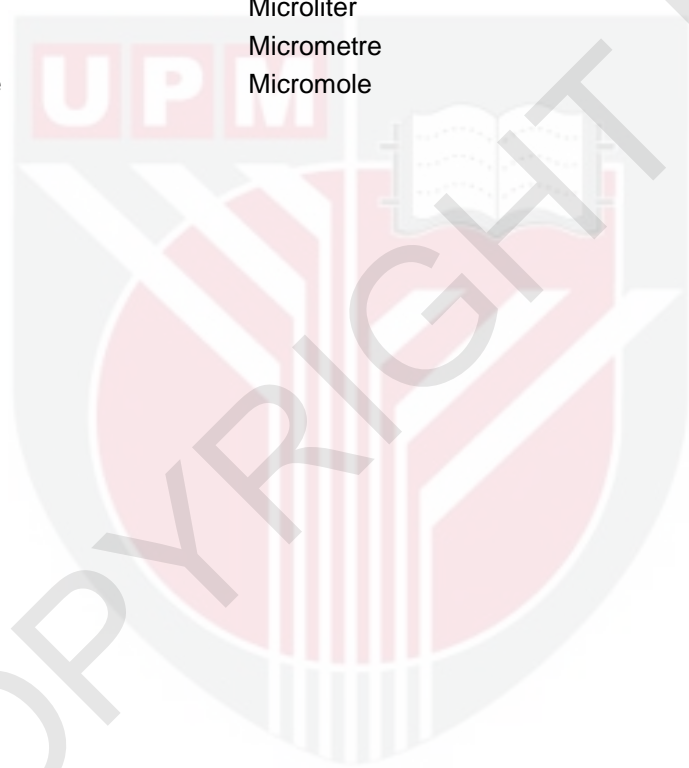
## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AA	Amino acids
AABA	L- $\alpha$ -Amino-n-Butyric Acid
ADF	Acid Detergent Fiber
ADL	Acid Detergent Lignin
AIAAD	Apparent Ileal Amino Acids Digestibility
AID	Apparent Ileal Digestibility
AIDCP	Apparent Ileal Digestibility of Crude Protein
AME	Apparent Metabolisable Energy
AME <sub>n</sub>	Nitrogen-corrected Apparent Metabolisable Energy
ANOVA	Analysis of Variance
AOAC	Association Official Agricultural Chemists
ATCC	American Type Culture Collection
BWG	Body Weight Gain
cm	Centimetre
CF	Crude Fiber
CP	Crude Protein
DCP	Dicalcium phosphate
DDGS	Dried Distillers Grain with Solubles
DM	Dry Matter
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
DOSM	Department of Statistics Malaysia
DVS	Department of Veterinary Service
EE	Ether Extract
EFB	Empty Fruit Bunch
EU	European Union
FAMA	Federal Agricultural Marketing Authority
FCR	Feed Conversion Ratio
FI	Feed Intake
g	Gram
GE	Gross Energy
GIT	Gastrointestinal Tract
GLM	General Linear Models
h	Hour
HCL	Hydrochloric Acids
HDL-C	High Density Lipoprotein Cholesterol
HPLC	High Performance Liquid Chromatography
Hz	Hertz



IACUC	Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
IB	Infectious Bronchitis
kcal	Kilocalorie
kg	Kilogram
L	Liter
LAB	Lactic Acid Bacteria
LDL-C	Low Density Lipoprotein Cholesterol
M	Molar
MCP	Monocalcium phosphate
ME	Metabolisable Energy
mg	Milligram
mm	Millimetre
MPOB	Malaysian Palm Oil Board
MRS	De Man, Rogosa, Sharpe
MRT	Mean Retention Time
MSM	Minimal Salt Media
ND	Newcastle Disease
NDF	Neutral Detergent Fiber
NRC	National Research Council
NSP	Non-Starch Polysaccharide
OM	Organic Matter
OPF	Oil Palm Frond
PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction
pH	Hydrogen Ion Concentration
PKC	Palm Kernel Cake
PKE	Palm Kernel Expeller
PKM	Palm Kernel Meal
POME	Palm Oil Mill Effluent
POS	Palm Oil Sludge
PPF	Palm Pressed Fiber
RM	Ringgit Malaysia
RNA	Ribonucleic Acids
ROP	Rate of Passage
rpm	Revolution per minute
SAS	Statistical Analysis System
SEM	Standard Error of Means
SR	Sulfonamide-Resistant
SSF	Solid State Fermentation
TC	Total Cholesterol
TG	Triglycerides

TiO <sub>2</sub>	Titanium Dioxide
TME	True Metabolisable Energy
TME <sub>n</sub>	Nitrogen-corrected True Metabolisable Energy
IU	International Unit
u/d	Undetected
UPM	Universiti Putra Malaysia
VFA	Volatile Fatty Acids
°C	Degree Celsius
× g	Gravitational Force
µg	Microgram
µL	Microliter
µm	Micrometre
µmole	Micromole



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## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

According to the Fourth Malaysian Agriculture Policy (2011-2020), efforts will be taken to encourage the local animal feed production, particularly in escalating the research and development of locally produced feed ingredient in non-ruminant feed (includes poultry). The current self-sufficiency of poultry meat and eggs are 98.2% and 113.6%, respectively and it contributes to 73% of the RM22 billion livestock industry in the country which the ex-farm value of poultry meat and eggs were RM 11.6 billion and RM 4.6 billion, respectively (Department of Statistics Malaysia, 2020; Department of Veterinary Service, 2020). However, the industry is not sustainable in the long term due to heavy dependence on imported feed and increasing the cost of inputs. Malaysia is importing feedstuffs to the value of above RM2 billion annually (Federal Agricultural Marketing Authority, 2014).

Data from Malaysian Palm Oil Board (2020) showed that Malaysia palm oil industry produces over 2 million tonnes of palm kernel cake (PKC), a waste from palm oil extraction process, annually. The local poultry industry and scientists have shown interest in PKC to be an alternative feed to the corn-soy based feeds that have been used widely, due to its abundance and low pricing. As per comparison, the current price of PKC (RM499/tonne) is lower by 42% than corn grain (RM860/tonne) (Ministry of Plantation Industry and Commodities, 2020; National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2021). In Malaysia, PKC has been successfully used as a ruminant feed rather than as a feed for monogastric animals (Zulkifli et al., 2003). Since PKC is a by-product of the palm oil extraction, it holds up an average amount of carbohydrate and protein, with lacks several essential amino acids. However, the use of PKC in poultry feeding is limited due to its high fiber content (17%), high insoluble non-starch polysaccharides (NSP) such as mannan (78%), which reduce the digestibility of nutrient and subsequently lower the metabolizable energy (ME) (1300 kcal kg<sup>-1</sup>) (Sharmila et al., 2014). Such limitation led to low yet inconsistent recommended inclusion level for poultry feeding, ranges from 10-20% (Alimon, 2004).

Several treatments on PKC have recently been tested to reduce and/or eliminate the constraints of using PKC in poultry diets (Sharmila et al., 2014). The methods used to achieve this goal are either physically, chemically, biologically or by combining those treatments. However, there is limited data available on the ME, CP, and AA digestibility of treated PKC, which essential for the modern practice of diets formulation with specific nutrient requirements. Besides that, few treatments were unable to improve the feed efficiency in chicken (Chen et al., 2018; Saenphoom et al., 2013), despite the improvement noticed on PKC nutritive quality which may suggest low nutrient utilization, even in treated PKC diets. Such discrepancies may untangle with an in-depth investigation on broiler's digestive functions upon feeding of treated PKC/untreated PKC.

Limiting the use of fibrous ingredients in poultry diets under heat stress conditions was recommended (Chong, 1999; Leeson & Summers, 1997). High fiber diets showed lower availability of essential amino acids in heat-stressed chickens, which later compromised their growth performance (Koelkebeck et al., 1998). As Malaysia is experiencing hot and humid climate throughout the year, the feeding of PKC to broiler chickens under high ambient temperatures is of concern. Plus, there is no information on the suitability of treated PKC for heat-stressed broilers, thus it is essential to determine the nutrient availability of treated PKC under high ambient temperature.

Previous studies on PKC in poultry involved the inclusion of high levels of oil to replace the metabolizable energy of the diet (Alshelmani et al., 2016a; Saenphoom et al., 2013) which initially contributed by corn. Although high dietary fat in the diet may be associated with higher fat deposition in chickens, it also may improve fiber tolerance in heat stressed chickens (Zulkifli et al., 2003). Higher dietary fat supplementation has shown to improve nutrient utilization by increase feed passage time (Mateos et al., 1982). Thus, the important role of dietary fat in PKC fed broilers under the high environmental temperature need to be explored.

### **1.1 Hypothesis**

Overall, it is expected that the treatments on PKC will improve its nutritive quality for heat-stressed broiler, and its combination with higher oil level supplementation will ensure optimum growth by improving the digestive system in broiler chicken under high environmental temperature.

### **1.2 Objective of the study**

The purpose of this experiment was to evaluate the effects of physical and biological treatments on the nutritive quality of PKC for broiler chickens under high environmental temperature.

### **1.2.1 Specific objectives**

- 1.2.1.1 To determine the AME and AID of CP of shell-less, enzyme treated, extruded, and extruded shell-less PKC in broilers under unheated and heated conditions.
- 1.2.1.2 To compare the rate of passage (ROP), AME, and AIAAD of the enzyme-fermented PKC, extruded PKC, and lactic acid bacteria-fermented PKC in broilers under hot tropical climate.
- 1.2.1.3 To study the effects of high dietary oil inclusion in untreated PKC or treated PKC containing finisher diets on broiler's growth performance, cecal microbial population, and blood lipid profile concentration under hot tropical climate.
- 1.2.1.4 To determine the ileal nutrient digestibility, digestive enzyme activity, intestinal morphology, and nutrient transporters mRNA expressions in broiler chickens fed with PKC based diets at different levels of oil supplementation.

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## LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

- Hanafiah, H.A., Zulkifli, I., Soleimani, A.F. and Awad, E.A., 2017. Apparent metabolisable energy and ileal crude protein digestibility of various treated palm kernel cake based diets for heat-stressed broiler chickens. *Archiv für Geflügelkunde*, 81.
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