

How to Monitor Impact of Feed Variability to Improve Formulation - Advancia Academy 2019

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20 June 2019 - More than 120 participants attended the second Advancia Academy 2019 organized by Adisseo, in Gdansk, Poland, prior to the 22nd European Symposium on Poultry Nutrition.

While the 22nd ESPN attracted more than 1,800 participants from June 11th, Adisseo organized its second Advancia Academy 2019 focusing on Variability on Sunday June 9th and Monday June 10th.

“Feed is the largest contributor to the cost of animal protein production. It is therefore, the main cause of uncertainty and anxiety for nutritionists and feed formulators. Dealing with variability to prepare consistent feeds is the objective of nutritionists worldwide.” introduced Dr Pierre-André Geraert (Director Scientific Marketing, Adisseo).

Dr Gilles Tran, from Feedipedia & AFZ France, opened these two days showing the variety of ingredients available for feed preparation and the potential to use a larger range of raw materials than currently employed. Prof Markus Rodehutschord, Hohenheim University, Germany, illustrated the factors of variability and the difficulty to predict the nutritional value of cereals and their by-products. Using a wide range of cultivars but grown under the same field conditions, it is difficult to find significant correlations between digestible values and analytical parameters. Prof Robert Swick (UNE, Armidale, Australia) and Dr Jan van Eys (Gans Inc., USA & France) further documented the variability of oilseed meals particularly soybean meals showing that digestible lysine value is poorly correlated with crude protein content.

“The nutritionist’s objective is to guarantee the best mix of raw materials to improve the efficacy and sustainability of global feed formulations. A better knowledge of variability will then allow to minimize the safety margins and reduce feed costs - without compromising technical performance or health” said Dr Pierre-André Geraert.

“The variability of raw material isn’t an issue...it requires only the best practices to be monitored and transformed into opportunities to identify strategies aimed at improved performance and cost optimization. There are no bad raw materials... only wrongly evaluated and incorrectly used raw materials” added Pascal Cerneau, (Nutrition Services Manager, Adisseo).

This potential to better monitor the variability of ingredients was nicely illustrated by Dr Rick Kleyn from South Africa insisting on the NIRS tool to give present values of ingredients received by the feed manufacturers on a daily basis. Dr Natalie MORGAN, University of New England, Armidale, Australia addressed the potential of supplementary enzymes to reduce the variability between batches of ingredients and within animal flocks. Dr Franco Calini (Tecnas, Italy), concluded the seminar proposing formulation strategies to deal with ingredient variability on a day-to-day basis.

This Advancia Academy also gave participants the opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences on many issues and solutions in their practical context during very interactive workshops.

To further open the discussions, Prof Marc-André Selosse, Natural History Museum, Paris, France, showed how gut microbiota plays the role in remodeling the nutrients for the animal use. The microbiota can be considered as the door to the animal's body influencing both the nutrients as the gut health and thus a potential buffer of the variability between ingredients.

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