

**EVALUATION OF KOMBUCHA TEA NUTRITIONAL SUPPLEMENT AND
Saccharomyces cerevisiae SC47 ON PRODUCTION PARAMETERS IN NEW
ZEALAND RABBITS DURING THE FATTENING STAGE**

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ABSTRACT

This is the first report of the effects of Kombucha tea (KT) and *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (Sc47) probiotics in rabbit production. The objective of the present study is to evaluate the effect of KT supplement, which is only used for humans, as well Sc47 yeast strain, during the fattening phase in New Zealand rabbits. In a first experiment, 30 four-week age weaned rabbits were used. They were distributed randomly into three treatments: KT A, Sc47 B and Control C with 10 repetitions each. In the other research, 30 five-weeks age rabbits with the same distribution characteristics than the first experiment were used, regardless sex in both research. KT was provided in drinking distilled water during the treatments at doses of two ml/Kg. In the treatment B, Sc47 was added at doses of two ml with a yeast concentration of 0.014g containing 77,000 CFU per ml, diluted in drinking water. For the group C, food and water were only supplied. For both experiments, a commercial diet free of additives was used. The results in total food intake, weight gaining, nutritional conversion and carcass yield, were not statistically significant ($P>0.05$). However, the analysis of the production parameters at the time when the animals of group A reached the 2kg weight, there were statistically significant differences in the above-mentioned parameters ($P<0.05$); because the animals reached the goal of the two kg four days earlier than the control group. Furthermore, the KT doses used in treatment A, did not represent a health risk to the experimented rabbits.

Key words: probiotic, rabbit, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, Kombucha tea, production parameters.