

## Premix: Micro-nutrients of Macro Importance for Animal Feeds

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Overtime the nutritional requirements of animals changes due to a lot of factors which makes it imperative for consistent re-evaluation, research and technological advancements of animal feeds to meet up with these changes. Nutrition takes 60%-70% of cost of production and highly essential for performance and well being of the animals while other factors like health, water source, environment also play a role. To maintain a balance, premix plays an important role in meeting the ever changing nutritional demands of animals for improved performance.

Premix is a mixture of vitamins and minerals(may also contain medicaments, feed supplements) added in animal feeds for sustainable safety and quality with the objective of delivering essential micro nutrients needed by the animals. It has been observed that though the percentage of premix in total feed is as low as 0.25% and more recently 2.5% in some cases, the impact in animals is significant and its deficiency results in low performance hence the term micro nutrients with macro impact. Some farmers or feed millers underestimate the importance of premix maybe due to its inclusion rate in feed, not been aware that it plays important roles in physiochemical activities, reproduction and 100% present in metabolic functions of the animals.

In laying birds for example deficiency of Vitamin A can result in egg reduction, blindness and keratinization of the epithelium. Bone formation, egg shell quality, yolk color among others are functions of the premix available in feeds. In the past, Premix was recommended to avoid clinical symptoms or nutritional deficiencies in animal, but more recently the new standard supplementation improves animal growth rate, state of health and well being, optimizes productive potentials of the animal, reproduction, production of high quality and nutritionally balanced food.

The quality of feed given to animals can be sabotaged with the use of poor and low quality premix in manufacturing of the feeds. Hence it is important to understand the significance of premix in

animal feeds though required in insignificant amount, it can cause serious detrimental impact on the performance and state of well being of the animals. Understanding vitamin and mineral supplementation (premix) enables right usage and its potency in feed [1-3].

### Bibliography

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