



NEWS RELEASE

Feed phosphate crisis: phytases are a readily available part of the solution

Brussels, 13 February 2008 -- The European Feed Additives and Premixtures Association (FEFANA) is offering support to address in a sustainable way the current shortage of feed phosphate, while not undermining the EU feed chain safety.

Microbial phytases have been used for almost 20 years in animal nutrition to release plant-bound phytate phosphorous. These feed additives play an essential role in modern feeding concepts for both economical and ecological reasons. The current shortage and high price of inorganic phosphates shed a new light on this practice.

By reducing the need for feed phosphates, phytases in diets for monogastric animals can contribute significantly to overcome the current shortage in feed phosphates.

At present in most of feeds standard phytase dose rates are used to replace up to 4.4 kg MCP or 6.4 kg DCP. As shown in numerous trials, increasing phytase above these standard levels, which is already authorized under EU law, can allow higher amounts of inorganic phosphates to be substituted.

The overall use of microbial phytases in monogastric feed, combined with an increase in dose rates, are an attractive option to supply more digestible phosphorous to livestock and to overcome the shortage in mineral phosphates without imposing an additional risk to the environment and the food chain. The significant reduction in phosphorus and trace element excretion by the animals would also be relevant.

The current scarcity of feed phosphates seems to find its roots in several factors, including competing demand from non feed uses, which is an increasingly prominent parameter in the feed industry. From the analysis available, it would appear that the phosphate issue is a structural development that is unlikely to change short term. In this perspective, while the supply to feedstock production must obviously be assured, it is important that food safety and environmental protection are taken into account in any decision. Recourse to phytases appears to be an effective and sustainable approach that should be fully exploited before considering any other alternatives.

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About FEFANA

FEFANA is the EU Feed Additives and Premixtures Association. It was established on October 13th, 2004 and is the new juridical form of the feed additives producers association that was founded in 1963. With 89 members (including producers, traders and importers) from 28

countries, the association is the interface between the feed additives and premixtures industry and the European Union authorities, including Member States authorities, in order to promote, safeguard and defend common and general interests of the industry (in several topics like guidelines, register, labelling and definitions, analysis, feed hygiene and food chain safety or non-feed use of additives). FEFANA's President is Dr Hadden Graham of AB Agri.