**INTRODUCTION**

Bangladesh is an agricultural based country and its population is too large. Land and life closely entwined in Bangladesh over 80% of the country is 120 million people lives in rural sector and highly depend on agricultural system. Agricultural generated 39% of the GDP and share of the livestock subsector 2.8%(Brammer et al 1996) livestock population and poultry population in our country are 47.51 million and 245.89 million(BLRI, report 2006-2007). There are so many dairy and poultry fare are established. They need various mineral preparation and amino acid for the growth, bone development, feathering, enzyme and structure and function and appetite. They predominantly act as catalyst, in many enzyme and hormone systems under et at (1999). Among the trace minerals selenium is most important mineral for the production and reproductive function of livestock ration which is more safely than in organic selenium. Studies shows that selenium is key supporting normal reproductive function, reproductive status of bull, calf health, stress due to weaning and feed lot receiving, meat quality shelf life and nutritional value of meat. Selenium plays an important role in beef cattle diets organic selenium is produced from the beneficial organism. Organic selenium is more digestible than inorganic forms and better retained. Which leads the animal build nutrient, reservs against periods of increased demand without risking toxicity. Selenium yeast has received allowance for use in chicken diets, followed by turkey, swine, goat, sheep, equine, beet and dairy feeds and dog diets.

Selenium (se) is both an essential nutrient for humans and animals and a toxicant at excess levels in foods. Its content in animal products reflects that of the feeds consumed. In order to meet Se nutritional requirements, it is a common animal production technology to supplement livestock and poultry diets with selenium. As a consequence, supplemented animals yield animal products (e.g. milk, meat, eggs) with higher Se concentrations. Because of concern about safety of human consumers, the quantities of selenium that can be supplemented to food-producing animals are strictly regulated. Nutritional and safety implications of selenium supplementation in animal production are discussed. Many studies indicate that selenium from organic sources, e.g. from selenium- riched yeasts, is more bioavailable compared to inorganic sources and results in more selenium deposited in animal tissues. Problems can arise from accidental overdosing or errors in formulation of Se supplements in food-producing animals, which could lead to animal toxicosis and excessive enrichment of se in the human food chain. A study is reported in which the effects of a tenfold over-dose of Se, administered through Se-riched yeast, have been examined on selenium status and on Se deposition in eggs and edible tissues in laying hens.(Donate et al, 2009)

Organic selenium is most important for our live stocks and poultry but the farmers expense huge amount of money to buy these mineral preparation.

Low cost selenium preparation is not available in our country. So it is very important issue to prepare the organic selenium preparation with in low cost.

But this product is available in market is high price and quality not ensured. So we want to make low cost preparation of organic selenium.

This study conducted for following purpose:

• To established the production method of organic selenium from beneficial organism.

**REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

**Haruo Momose et al (2007)** reported that yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* produced cellular protein with methionine contents as high as 3.6 and 4.3% respectively, when incubated in the presence of methionine. The former strain contained 2.5% methionine even when incubated at 37⁰c in the absence of methionine. Wild strain Y5α, on the other hand, had 1.75% methionine under all conditions tested. Most temperature-sensitive mutants isolated had the same methionine content as the wild streain. It is concluded that the proportion of a specific amino acid, such as methionine, in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* protein can be altered by culturing temperature-sensitive mutants at an elevated temperature.

**A.Suhajda et al (2005)** reported that under appropriate conditions yeasts are capable of accumulating large amounts of trace elements, such as selenium, and incorporating them into organic compounds. It has been found that introduction of water-soluble selenium salt as a component of the culture medium for yeasts produced by conventional batch processing results in a substantial amount of selenium being absorbed by the yeast. Using a culture medium supplemented with 30μg/ml sodium-selenite added during the exponential growth phase results in selenium-accumulation in the range of 1200-1400 μg/g dried baker’s yeast(*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*) measured by ICP-AES method. The most important parameters influencing incorporated forms of selenium are pᵸ value and dissolved oxygen level in the culture medium, and depending on these the selenium consumption rate of yeast is 0.40-0.50 mg/g h-1 specific selenium consumption rate was found to be appropriate to obtain selenium-enriched baker’s yeast of a high quality.

**Sudaja, et al (2000)** reported that fed-batch fermentation protocol for enhanced production of *Sacchromyces cerevisiae* containing organically bound selenium. Two levels of sodium selenate concentrations were applied as either a single dose or continuous addition. Fermentations with high sodium selenate (63.2 g/L in cane molasses feeding medium) demonstrated 24 g/l of biomass with 1382 μg of selenium/g of dry biomass with 1491 μg of selenium/g of dry biomass for continuous addition. Low selenium concentration (31.6 g/l in cane molasses feeding medium) demonstrated higher biomass concentration with higher selenium level; 37 g/l of biomass with 2846 μg of selenium/g of dry biomass and 45 g/l of biomass with 2495 μg of selenium/g of dry biomass for single dose and continuous addition, respectively. Also two adapted Saccharomyces cerevisiae strains were evaluated in fed-batch fermentation. A single dose of low concentration demonstrated >3000 μg of selenium/g of dry biomass, but biomass concentration was lower.

**Ali Demirci et al (1999)** reported that incorporation of sodium selenite or sodium selenate into *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* biomass by continuous fermentation in a medium with minimal sulfur and methionine concentrations. Selenium incorporation was followed by atomic absorption analysis and methylene blue reduction time (MBRT). Continuous fermentation at 0.2 h⁻1 dilution rate and sodium selenite addition gradient up to 0.69 g/l of sodium selenite yielded 1.89 g/l of biomass with 1904 μg of selenium/g of dry biomass. However, MBRT was 0.1 min, which indicated that the majority of selenium was in the inorganic form. On the other hand, continuous fermentation at 0.2 h⁻1 dilution rate and sodium selenate gradient up to 0.28 g/l of sodium selenite yielded 0.76 g/l of dry biomass with 687 μg of selenium of dry biomass, and MBRT was 26 min which indicated a high concentration of organically bound Selenium. Overall, the results indication a se/s ratio of 3:9:1 and a dry biomass/se ratio of 5:5:1 as optimal for continuous production of organically bound selenium.

**Ouerdane et al (2008)** reported that, for the first time, a quantitative replacement of methionine (Met) by selenomethionine% substitution, with up to 4940 microgram of SeMet/g of yeast obtained for the entire protein pool of a wild-type yeast grown on a SeMet-containing medium. The incorporation of selenium in yeast proteins, in the form of selenomethionine, and the influence of various organic and inorganic Se and S sources present in the media were monitored during the growth of a wild- type *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, which allowed the optimization of the composition of a fully defined synthetic growth medium that ensured maximum SeMet incorporation. Quantitation of SeMet and Met was performed by species-specifie isotope dilution GC-MS. In a medium containing Se(VI),the maximum replacement of Met with SeMet was 50%,which is considerably higher than that obtained with the current commercial Se Yeast formulations. For yeast grown in a Met-free defined medium, which was supplemented with SeMet, nearly total replacement of Met with SeMet could be achieved.

**R.L.Payne et al (2008)** reported that A 28-d experiment using 288 Hy-Line W-36 laying hens was Conducted to compare sodium selenite (SS) with Se-enriced yeast (SY).The Se from SS or SY was supplemented into a corn-soybean meal basal diet 0, 0.15,0.30, 0.60 or 3.00 ppm, and the basal diet was formulated to provide 0.82% lysine and 2950 Kcal/kg ME.Each treatment was replicated 4 times with of 4 hens per cage in each replicate. Hen production was assessed daily, and 2 eggs per replicate were collected every 4 d for whole-egg Se analysis. Albumen quality was assessed at 2 egg storage temperatures (7.2 vs. 22.2⁰c) with the eggs collected on d 24 and 28, respectively.

**M.Svoboda; et al (2005)** reported that the aim of the trial was to determine the efficacy of organic Se from Se-enriched yeast in placental tranfers to piglets in the conditions of a Czech pig farm. In group I (n=8) the sows were fed during gestation and lactation a diet supplemented with inorganic Se (sodium selenite, 0.3 mg/kg of Se for the gestation and 0.38 mg/kg of Se for the lactation diet). In group II (n=8) the diet of the sows was supplemented with organic Se from Se-enriched yeast (0.3 mg/kg of Se for the gestation and 0.38 mg/kg of Se for the lactation diet). Se concentrations in the whole blood, colostrum and milk were higher (p<0.01) in the group of sows fed with the organic Se form. No differences in GSH-Px activities in the whole blood were found between the two groups of sows. The concentrations of Se in piglet tissues (heart p 0.01, muscle p>0.01) were also higher when the organic form was provided. It is concluded that the use of the organic Se from Se-enriched yeast in sows resulted in greater transfer of Se to their progeny, however it did not have a positive effect on the antioxidant system of the organism.

**Laure Ouerdane et al (2008)** reported that a quantitative replacement of methionine (Met) by selenomethionine (SeMet) at>98% substitution, with up to 4940 μg of SeMet/g of yeast obtained for the entire protien pool of a wildtype yeast grown on a SeMet-containing medium. The incorporation of selenium in yeast proteins, in the form of selenomethionine and the influence of various organic and inorganic Se and S sources present in the media were monitored during the growth of a wild-type *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, which allowed the optimization of the composition of a fully defined synthetic growth. Medium that ensured maximum SeMet incorporation.Quantitation of SeMet and Met was performed by species-specific isotope dilution GC-MS.The use of ascorbic acid and a minimum concentration of cysteine (5μg/l) was found to be beneficial to achieve incorporation by limiting the oxidative stress due to the presence of selenium. Except for small amounts of cysteine, no other sources of sulful were necessary to achieve yeast growth.In a medium containing Se(VI), the maximum replacement of Met with SeMet was 50%, which is considerably higher than that obtained with the current commercial Se yeast formulations. For yeast grown in a Met-free defined medium, which was supplemented with SeMet, nearly total replacement of Met with SeMet could be achieved. The fully Se-labeled yeast could be an imported tool for the study of eukaryotic protein structures both by mass spectrometry and by X-ray crystallography through selenomethionine single and multiple-wavelength anomalous dispersion (SAD and mad) phasing. In addition, a particular yeast strain, BY4741,that cannot synthesize Met using inorganic sulfur (met15∆0) was shown to produce SeMet in the presence of inorganic selenium. This might indicate that the incorporation of inorganic selenium salts [Se(VI) and Se(IV)] is obviously not occurring exclusively through the same biological pathways as for sulfur. The reduction of Se to hydrogen Selenide (H₂Se) its reactions with organic compounds present in the yeast or in the media, and the possible metabolization through unspecific enzymatic pathways (such as transsulfuration) could also be of considerable importance in the production of selenoamino acid.

**METHODS AND MATERIALS**

**SELENIUM YEAST MANUFACTURE**

Beneficial organism was reported as early as 1961 to take up inorganic Se from the culture medium and to convert it into selenomethionine. The biosynthesis of selenomethionine is know to occur in analogy to that of methionine and to utilize. The maximum amount of selenium a yeast cell can in the order if 6000 ppm. However, the full replacement if methionine by selenom- ethionine is not possible the amount of Se in yeast achieved so far is about 3000 ppm. The Selenium yeast of commerce is usually cultured from 500 to 2000 ppm of Se and is indistinguishable in appearance, flavor, odour, microbiological purity and vitamin content from normal dried food yeast. Selenium yeast is produced industrially by methods which may differ in important and which in part are proprietory and /or patented. For a description of some selenium yeast production processes and suppliers, see. To be marketable as a food, Selenium yeast must meet or exceed the standers laid down by IUPAC for dried food yeast. It is defined as “the whole organism of one individual yeast, or a mixture of several yeasts belonging to the family *Saccharomycetaceae*, obtained either as a by – product of fermentation processes or by special culture” Dried Selenium yeast must not exceed the upper limits if moisture, ash, lead, arsenic, live bacteria counts and mold counts. Minimum levels are set for nitrogen. Thiamine, riboflavin, and niacin. It is furthermore required to be free of starch and bacteria of the genus salmonella. (@2006 IUPAC, Pure and Applied Chemistry 78, 105-109)

**Preparation of Beneficial organism culture media:**

**Required materials:**

1.Sugar

2.Wheat barn power

3.Bread

4.Mustard Oil Cake

5.Distilled water

6.Selenium powder

**Beneficial Organism Culture preparation:**

1) At first sugar is dissolved in distilled water and gradually wheat barn power, Bread powder, Mustard Oil Cake are mixed with sugar solution.

2) Beneficial organism (Yeast) Culture are inoculated into the prepared media.

3) Few amounts of Selenium powder mixed with yeast media.

4) The growth of beneficial organism are observed by direct microscope; it was find that full growth of yeast required 21 days.

**Laboratory analysis of the sample:**

The prepared sample was sent to the SGS Bangladesh Limited Laboratory for analysis. The level of the Selenium is determined by the method of AOAC 18th EDN. 2005 by ICP OES.

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Fig: Mixture of ingredient Fig: Microscopic Examination

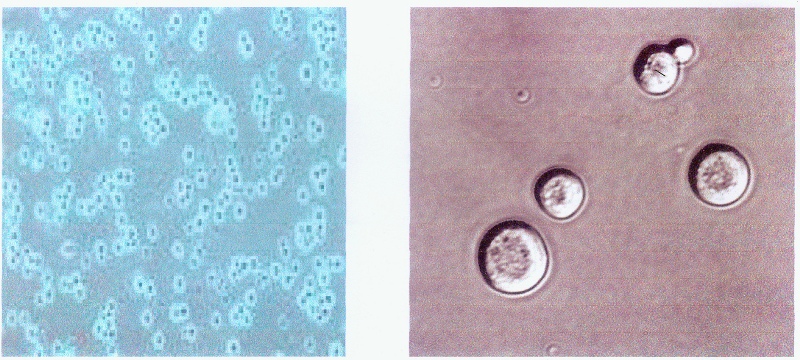
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Fig: Saccharomyces cerevisiae under the microscope

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The beneficial organism was grown in the inorganic Selenium riched media. After testing the media we stimated that this media contain and 17 mg/gm of benefical organism media.

According to A. Suhajda et al (2005) the Selenium yeast produced 1.2 mg- 1.4 mg per gm benefical organism media. My finding result is higher than this. It may be due to variation of culture media and beneficial organism and other production procedure.

**SELENIUM YEAST SAFETY**

Whereas pure selenomethionine is a toxic substance, I gm of which taken orally could be fatal to an adult, selenium yeast poses no comparatively serious threat since, to obtain the same amount of selenomithionine, approximately I lb of a 1000 ppm. Selenium yeast would have to be ingested. The chronic toxicity of selenium yeast has been reported to be lower compared to sodium selenite in experiment with weanling rats and growing.

However, this is true only for growing young animals, young, growing animals are less sensitive to chronically toxic levels of selenomethionine in the feed only because some of it is continuously removed from circulation and incorporated into newly synthe-sized proteins. Nevertheless, the use of se yeast as a feed.

Additive or se for supplements is always safer than that of sodium selenite, if only because its low concentration safeguards against formulation or dosage errors. Accordingly, the sfety record of Selenium yeast is excellent: In the three decades of its use as a feed additive and in nutritional supplements, no case of accidental se poisoning have been reported.

**CONCLUSION**

Organic selenium is the most important nutrient for livestock and poultry but organic selenium is not available in natureal feed items. Some of beneficial organism has capacity to convert the inorganic selenium into organic selenium. The first process of manufracture Se yeast was developed more than three decades ago, Its chemical analysis and especially the quantitative determination of selenomethionine, initially caused difficulties, resulting in claims the Se yeast was poorly characterized and of variable composition. In the meantime, the analytical problems have been largely overcome, and it is now generally agreed that se yeast contains most of its total se in the form of selenomethionine. The application of improved methods of analysis also revealed the composition of Se yeast to be more uniform than peviously assumed. Since selenomethionine is the chief form of selenim in which it enters the food chain, selenium yeast thus is to be regarded as an excellent source of naturally biosynthesized, food-form selenium. The organic selenium and methionine production is not familiar in our country. Finally, cocerns that the ingestion of selenomethionine may result in the accumulation of selenium to potentially toxic levels in the organism must be judged as unfounded, since ingested selenomethionine is not only incorporated into proteins, but is also continuously released from them by normal catabolic process. But the organic selenium and methionine production from the Saccharomyces cerevisiae is easy and cheapest than other commercial method. We can easily able to produce organic selenium by using the locally available ingredient in our country. Its may be bring good prospect in our livestock and poultry industries.

**DESCRIPTION ABOUT SELENIUM**

**SELENIUM:**

One of the most interesting trace minerals from a historical point of view is selenium. After its discovery in 1817 it was determined to by toxic and carcinogenic to animals. In 1957 it however selenium was determined to be dietary essential to animals protect them from disorders such as liver necrosis exudative diathesis and pancreatic fibrosis. In 1973 selenium was determined to add to diets for swine and poultry. Because of this potential toxicity the FAD regulates the inclusion of selenium in animals feeds.

The most common inorganic forms of selenium acid selenates which are the selenium analogues of sulphuric acid, sulphurcus acid sulphates and sulphates plants and micro-organisms have been shown to be able to replace the sulphur in cystine and methionine with selenium thereby producing selenocystine and selenomethionine. In ruminants a percentage of the ingested selenium appears to be incorporated by the rumen micro-organisms in to the seleno analogues of cystine and methionine. These may be absorbed by the animals and deposited in the tissues in the form of selenoamino acids.

The FDA recently approved the use of some organic sources of selenium. We have conducted several experiments to compare the commercially available inorganic and organic selenium sources for their use in diets for broilers and laying hens. The source we used were sodium selenite and selenium-enriched yeast(seleno-methionine).There was no difference in selenium source on egg production, but there was an increase in the percentage of cracked eggs from hens fed selenium-enriched yeast was much greater than those from hens fed sodium selenite,which indicates an increase in availability of organic selenium to the laying hen.

**Absorption,Transport and Excretion of Selenium Compounds:**

Inorganic selenite and selenocystine are absorbed for the intestine by passive processes whereas selenomethionine is absorbed by an active transport mechanism.

After absorption the compound gets binded with a2 and B2 globulin fractions of the plasma. From this selenium binding protein, selenium is then transferred to erythrocytes (RBC). Uptake by the erythrocytes is influenced by adequate intracellular reduced glutathione.

Selenium intakes in excess of that which can be bound by proteins are methylated. In maminals this methylation occurs in two steps: (1) formation of dimethyl selenide; and (2) further conversion of dimethyl selenide to trimethyl selenonium ion which is water soluble and represents the normal excretory product of moderate excess of dietary selenium. At the time of excess intake, the transformation of dimethyl to trimethyl stops at certain stage and then the dimethyl selenide, being a volatile compound is excreted through expired air imparting a garlic odor to the breath.

**Selenium requirement:**

Selenium is often available in multivitamin and mineral supplements. The amount of selenium is listed in micrograms/day, or μg/day. The Food and Nutrition Board of the Institute of Medicine recommends following dietary reference intake (DRIs) of selenium:

* 0-6 months:15 μg/day
* 7-12 months:20 μg/day
* 1-8 years:30 μg/day
* 9-13years:40 μg/day
* 14 and older:55 μg/day

Women who are pregnant or breastfeeding may need slightly higher amounts. Ask your health care provider what is best for you.

Vitamin E and care provider supplementation reduced the number of cows with somatic cells counts over 200,000 by 70%. These studies have led to the recommendation of adding.

* 1000 IU’s of vitamin E per head per day during the dry period,
* 500-1000 IU’s during lactation, and
* 0.3ppm selenium to the diet at all times.
* The addition of selenium to livestock feeds is strictly regulated by the Food and Drug Administration, and 0.3 ppm is the maximum amount allowed.

The ANC program supplies 1000 IU’s of supplemental vitamin E per head per day per dry cow.

* Prefresh rations are set to include 1250 IU’s of vitamin E.
* The ANC program for lactating cows supplies 600 IU’s vitamin E to cows averaging 60 pounds of milk and
* Up to 1000 IU’s or more to.

Most high producing herds on our program include over 1000 IU’s of vitamin E to milking cows.

**Function of organic selenium:**

The role of selenium in animal nutrition has changed dramatically. Sixty years ago it was considered a toxic element, causing lameness and death in grazing animals in certain parts of the Great Plains. Since then, selenium has been determined to be an essential nutrient for nearly all classes of livestock.

Selenium has a variety of functions.

* It in trace amounts of it are necessary for cellular functions in most, if not all, animals, forming the active center of the enzymes glutathione peroxidase and thioredoxin reductase (which indirectly reduce certain oxidized molecules in animals and some plants) and three known deiodinase enzymes (which convert one thyroid hormone to another).In humans, selenium is a trace element nutrient which functions as cofactor for reduction of antioxidant enzymes such as glutathione peroxidase and certain forms of thioredoxin reductase found in animals and some plants (this enzyme occurs in all living organisms, but not all forms of it plants require selenium).

Glutathione peroxidase (GSH-Px) catalyzes certain reactions which remove reactive oxygen species such as peroxide:

2 GSH+ H2O2--------GSH-Px----GSSG+ 2H2O

* Humans and animals require selenium for the function of a number of selenium-dependent enzymes, also known as selenoproteins. During selenoprotein synthesis, selenocysteine is incorporated into a very specific location in the amino acid sequence in order to form a functional protein.
* It helps make special proteins, called antioxidant enzymes, which play a role in preventing cell damage.
* Selenium seems to stimulate antibodies after receive a vaccination.
* In also may help protect the body from the poisonous effets of heav metals and other harmful saubstances.
* Selenium may boost fertility, especially among men. The mineral has been shown to improve the production of sperm and sperm and sperm movement.

Many of the functions of selenium in the body can also be covered by vitamin E. Because of the close relationship between these two nutrients, they are often discussed together.

* One of the chief functions of both selenium and vitamin E is that of an antioxidant.
* They serve to protect the integrity of cell walls from the harmful and destructive effects of free radicals, which are produced during energy metabolism. This is crucial for the proper functioning of healthy epithelial tissue, such as the reproductive tract and mammary system.
* Selenium and vitamin E are also very important in the functioning of the immune system.

Selenium has also been recently found in another enzyme, 5-deiodinase, 5-deiodinase is an enzyme that catalyzes the reaction of the inactive form of thyroxine to the active form.

Thyroid gland-thyroxin- helps in regulating body temperature, metabolism, reproduction, circulation and muscle function.

**Selenium influences the absorption and retention of vitamin E and of triglycerides in at least three ways:**

1. It is required to preserve the integrity of the pancreas, which in turn allows normal fat digestion, normal lipid-bile salt micelle formation, and thus normal vitamin E absorption.
2. Since selenium is an integral part of the enzyme, glutathione peroxidase (0.34 per cent of selenium), this converts reduced glutathione to oxidized glutathione and at the same time destroys peroxidases by converting them to harmless alcohols.

2GSH+H2O2-----GSSH+2H2O

(A)Peroxidase

Thus a portion of reduced glutathione (A) is spent to destroy the toxic compound peroxide. In the same way it also destroys fatty acid hydroperoxidases (general structure ROOH) through reactions catalyzed by the glutathione peroxidase as below.

2GSH+ROOH-----GSSG+ROH+H2O

This prevention of attack by peroxidase upon the polyunsaturated fatty acids of the lipid membranes of cells thus greatly reduces the requirement of vitamin E.

Oxidised glutathione is again regenerated by the activity of the enzyme glutathione reductase

1. Selenium acids in some unknown way in the retention of vitamin E in the blood plasma.

Note: Vitamin E reduces selenium requirement in at least two ways:

1. By maintaining body selenium in an active form or by preventing its loss from the body.
2. By preventing a chain reactive auto-oxidation of the lipid membranes thereby inhibiting the production of hydroperoxidase. This reduces the amount of selenium containing glutathione peroxidase needed to destroy the peroxides formed int the cells.

***Selenium spares vitamin E by:***

1. Preserving pancreas integrity for normal fat digestion, thus normal vitamin E absorption.
2. Reducing the amount of vitamin E needed to maintain lipid membranes via GSH-Px.
3. Aiding in the retention of vitamin E in the blood.

***Vitamin E spares Se by:***

1. Maintaining body Se in an active form and prevents loss form the body.
2. Preventing destruction of membranes lipids from within the membrane, which inhibits the production of hydroperoxides and decreases the amount of GSH-Px needed.

**Deficiency symptom:**

* Rare in healthy well-nourished individuals.
* Hypothyroidism, including extreme fatigue, mental slowing, goiter, cretinism and recurrent miscarriage.
* Decreased activity of the glutathione peroxidases as well as some other thioredoxin reductase and thyroid deiodinases.
* Physiological stresses may occure.

*Symptoms of selenium and vitamin E deficiency include:*

* White muscle disease (muscular dystrophy) in calves, lambs, and piglets; retained placenta and slower uterine involution after calving in cattle; poor semen quality; oxidized flavor in milk; and poor growth rates.

There is one disease that is consistent in all livestock species, and that is

* Nutritional muscular dystrophy is caused by the deficiency of Se and/or vitamin E and S-containing amino acids. The disease is characterized by degeneration of the skeletal muscles, causing stiff gaits, and other problems.
* Exudative diathesis, which is the accumulation of fluid throughout the body, particularly in the abdomen and feet. This is caused by increased permeability of the capillaries and leakage of fluid from the the capillaries.
* Pancreatic fibrosis, muscular dystrophy may occur.
* With a severe selenium deficiency growth rate is reduced and mortality is increased.
* In case of turkeys, myopathy of gizzard and heart.
* A zinc deficiency in breeder in breeder diets reduces egg production and hatchability like selenium. Chicks with exudative diathesis condition are also anemic and are protein deficient. It occurs about 2-4 weeks after hatching and is easily diagnosed due to the edema and the blue-green tint to the skin after progressing to the hemorrhagic stage.

They also suffer from pancreatic atrophy, which has been found to be caused solely by Se deficiency. Atrophy of the pancreas results in a reduction in the amounts of lipase, trypsinogen, and chymotrypsin-all enzymes that aid in digestion of food. Therefore, this leads to extremely reduced growth and feathering.

Egg production decreases when hens are Se deficient; there is no evidence that suggests an effect on male reproduction.

Too much selenium in the blood can cause a condition called Selenosis. Selenosis can cause loss of hair, nail problems, nausea, irritability, fatigue, and mild nerve damage. Symptoms of selenosis include a garlic odour on the breath, gastrointestinal disorders, and hair loss, sloughing off nails, fatigue, irritability and neurological damage. Extreme cases of selenosis can result in cirrhosis of the liver, pulmonary edema and death.

**Benefits for Broiler Breeders:**

Selenium is found in every cell in the body functioning in at least 35 different proteins. These proteins include key antioxidants including Glutathione Peroxidase(GHS-Px). Good selenium status and GSH-Px activity is vital for optimal antioxidant function, immunity, fertility and health.

**Hatchability:**

Fertility and hatchability are of great importance in broiler breeders. Flock managers continually seek to improve these parameters. In commercials trials, increases of between 0.2% and 2% in hatchability have been observed when organic selenium was fed.

**Improved Chick Viability:**

Organic selenium has been improved the antioxidant statue of the developing chick embryo and chick through 10 days, thereby sparing vitamin E. This manifests itself in improved chick viability.

**Effect of organic selenium in both Males and Females:**

Commercial layer and broiler breeding operations are constantly striving to maximize the fertility of their flocks. With increasing demand for productivity improvements, consideration needs to be given to the selenium status of the bird to optimize fertility by supplementing with organic selenium.(Agate et. Al. 2000) that selenium improves fertility, particularly in the stages of lay. Past studies have shown a higher bioavilability associated with organic selenium sources than inorganic sources (Agate et al 2000)

In the female bird, sperm are stored in the sperm-storage tubules (SST). Only between 1-2% of inseminated sperm enter the SST where they are held virtually dormant before release.

The standard decline in fertility as birds age is believed to be, in part due to reduced ability of the female bird to hold sperm in the SST. The conditions within the SST are critical if sperm viability is to be maximized one critical factor is the antioxidant status within the tubules. Until recently, methods for assessing these storage parameters were limited, however , a novel technique, the perivitelline sperm hole assay has been developed allowing a quantification of fertility. Sperm enter the avian ova through the inner perivitelline layer of the germinal disc. By assessing the number of perivitelline sperm holes, a strong indication of flock fertility is obtained. A recent study at the University of Albrta, demonstrated a significant impact on this parameter when organic selenium was added to the diet of hens for a bthree weeks period.

Effects of organic selenium on Fertility in Male birds:

Sperm antioxidant status is dependant on selenoprotein P. This intriguing protein has a dual function in the developing sperm:

1.It functions as an antioxidant.

2. As the sperm matures, selenoprotein P takes on a structural role within the midpiece of the sperm.

The mid-piece is the vulnerable section of the sperm. It contains high concentrations of free radical suscesptible long chain polyunsaturated fats. These fats are present to provide flexibility as the mid-piece drives the sperm tail. Energy generated from this activity results in “Free radicals” production, hence increasing the requirement for antioxidant protection. Sel-Plex meets this required demand for antioxidant protection, ensuring the integrity of the mid-piece.

**Impact of organic selenium on feathering:**

Feather scores have been consistently improved with the use of Sel-Plex. Seleno

-cysteine, on of the active ingredients of Sel-Plex. Selenocysteine, one of the active ingredients of Sel-Plex, is involved in the development of feathers.

**Impact of organic selenium on Early Mortality:**

Organic selenium has consistently been shown to reduce chick mortality and this effect is more pronounced when birds are disease challenged.

**Heat stress and Vitamin E:**

Some flock managers use high levels of vitamin E to improved the bird’s resistance to heart stress. Studies have shown there is a synergistic effect between and organic selenium vitamin E levels improving the bird’s ability to avercome the effects of heart stress.

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