

## The Effect of Using a Fermented Mixture of Palm Kernel Cake and Cassava Byproduct Combined with Turmeric in Feed on Broiler Carcass Performance

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### ABSTRACT

This study aimed to evaluate the impact of different inclusion levels of a fermented mixture of palm kernel cake (PKC) and cassava byproduct (CB), combined with turmeric in feed, on broiler carcass performance, including body weight, carcass percentage, abdominal fat percentage, meat fat content, and blood cholesterol levels. The research was designed using a Completely Randomized Design with a 4x2 factorial pattern, where the first factor was the level of fermented product usage in feed (0, 10, 20, and 30%), and the second factor was the inclusion of turmeric (without and with 2.5% turmeric of total feed). The results showed an interaction effect between the level of fermented product usage and the inclusion of turmeric on blood cholesterol levels, with the combination of 30% fermented product usage and turmeric resulting in the lowest cholesterol level (110.5 mg/dL). The level of fermented product usage affected body weight, abdominal fat percentage, and blood cholesterol levels but did not affect carcass percentage or meat fat content. On the other hand, including turmeric in feed reduced blood cholesterol levels and tended to increase carcass percentage. Based on these findings, it is suggested that the dosage of turmeric be increased in the feed so that the combined effect of mixed fermentation products of PKC and CB with turmeric can significantly influence all investigated variables.

**Keywords:** Fermentation products, Palm kernel cake, Cassava byproduct, Turmeric, Broiler carcass

### INTRODUCTION

The use of antibiotic growth promoters (AGP) in poultry feed for a long time can cause pathogenic bacteria to become resistant to antibiotics, which can harm livestock and humans. One way to replace AGP is by using natural antibiotics such as probiotics, prebiotics, and phytobiotics in poultry feed. In raising poultry without AGP, efforts are made to ensure that the livestock have high immunity, making them less susceptible to diseases. Providing quality feed (such as fermented products containing probiotics and prebiotics) and using herbal ingredients (such as turmeric containing phytobiotics) is expected to boost immunity (Arslan et al. 2017) and improve poultry performance (Nurhayati 2007).

The mixture of palm kernel cake (PKC) and cassava byproduct (CB) fermented with *Aspergillus niger* is a fermentation product with potential as a non-conventional alternative feed ingredient for poultry.

Using this fermented product in broiler feed can improve feed palatability and broiler performance (Nurhayati 2007). This is because the fermentation product contains probiotics (Nurrady et al. 2018) that help maintain the health of the broiler's digestive tract. Additionally, the fermentation product also contains prebiotics (mannan oligosaccharides or MOS), which function to suppress pathogenic microorganisms in the digestive tract, aiding in their elimination through feces, thereby enhancing the balance of microorganism composition and improving profile (Nurhayati et al. 2021; Nurhayati et al. 2018).

Turmeric is an herbal plant that contains phytobiotics/active compounds called curcuminoids. Curcuminoids act as antioxidants, antivirals, anti-inflammatories, anticancer agents, radioprotectives, and neuroprotectives (Amalraj et al. 2017). Curcumin has also been shown to improve the activity of digestive enzymes in the digestive tract, thereby enhancing the digestion and absorption of feed nutrients. Additionally, curcumin has

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response of broilers and help prevent infections (Aderemi and Alabi 2023; Saleem et al. 2024). Using turmeric extract as a feed additive can enhance the activity of pancreatic enzymes (amylase, protease, lipase, and protein enzyme activity) (Purwanti et al. 2015; Chowdhury et al. 2021; Yang et al. 2022; Jamil et al. 2024).

Based on the beneficial characteristics and advantages of the mixed fermentation products of PKC and CB, as well as turmeric, this research aimed to combine the use of these fermented products and turmeric in broiler feed to achieve a synergistic effect that maximizes carcass performance. Therefore, this study aimed to determine the effect of the usage levels of fermentation products synergized with turmeric in feed on broiler carcass performance (body weight, carcass percentage, abdominal fat percentage, meat fat content, and blood cholesterol levels).

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Research materials and tools

This research was conducted at the Livestock Pen of the Lampung State Polytechnic. The materials used were 192 a-day-old broilers chicks, a fermented product mixture of palm kernel cake (PKC) (75%) and cassava byproduct (CB) (25%), concentrate, corn, rice bran, vegetable oil, and turmeric. The experimental feed compositions are presented in Tables 1 and 2.

**Table 1:** Composition of broiler experimental feed during starter and finisher periods

Feed ingredients	Treatments			
	P0	P1	P2	P3
Starter treatment feed (%)				
Concentrate feed	46	40	34	28
Corn	54	50	46	42
Fermentation product	0	10	20	30
Total	100	100	100	100
Finisher treatment feed (%)				
Concentrate feed	36	30	24	18
Corn	51.5	47.5	43.5	39.5
Rice bran	10	10	10	10
Fermentation product	0	10	20	30
Vegetable oil	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
Total	100	100	100	100

Note: P0, P1, P2, and P3 = successive usage levels of fermentation product at 0%, 10%, 20%, and 30% in feed.

**Table 2:** Nutrient content of feed during starter and finisher periods in each treatment

Period/Treatments	Nutrient contents			
	CP (%)	CF (%)	ME (kcal/kg)	EE (%)
Starter period				
P0	23.26	4.11	3229.13	3.908
P1	22.856	4.528	3212.63	3.880
P2	22.452	4.946	3196.12	3.852
P3	22.048	5.364	3179.62	3.824
Finisher period				
P0	20.185	4.2475	3223.55	4.468
P1	19.781	4.6655	3207.05	4.35
P2	19.377	5.0835	3190.55	4.322
P3	18.973	5.5015	3174.04	4.294

Note: CP = crude protein, CF = crude fiber, ME = metabolizable energy, EE = Ether extract

The equipment employed in this experiment included litter cages, feeding, and drinking devices, and digital

scales with capacities of 210g (precision: 0.001g) for measuring mineral and DOC scale and 5kg (precision: 0.001g) for body weight, carcass weight, and ration scales. Additional tools comprised lighting, a thermometer, a hygrometer, cage cleaning instruments, an oven, and wooden slats and plastic nets for compartmentalizing the cages.

### Research methods

Day-old chicks (DOCs) were raised in litter cages partitioned according to needs, each measuring 1x1.5m<sup>2</sup> for 24 compartments. Initially, the DOCs were weighed and randomly divided into 24 equal groups. These groups were then randomly allocated into 4x2 treatment groups with 3 replications, with each replication consisting of 8 birds.

The treatment groups included levels of fermented product usage (P0 = 0%, P1 = 10%, P2 = 20%, and P3 = 30% of total feed) and the addition of turmeric powder (T0 = 0% and T1 = 2.5% of total feed). Broilers were raised for 5 weeks with ad libitum feeding and drinking. Feed provided differed for broilers aged 0-3 weeks (starter period) and 4-5 weeks (finisher period). At the end of the fifth week, 3 broilers per experimental unit x 3 replications were slaughtered to observe carcass percentage, abdominal fat, meat fat content, and blood cholesterol. Body weight was averaged per compartment or replication. The observed variables were body weight, carcass percentage (%), abdominal fat percentage (%), meat fat content (%), and blood cholesterol level (mg/100mL).

The variables observed in this study consisted of body weight, carcass percentage, abdominal fat percentage, meat fat content and blood cholesterol levels. The research was designed using a completely randomized design factorial pattern of 4x2, with the first factor being 4 levels of fermented product usage: 0 (P0), 10 (P1), 20 (P2), and 30% (P3) of total feed, and the second factor being 2 levels of turmeric powder addition: 0 (T0) and 2.5% (T1) of total feed. Each treatment was replicated 3 times.

### Data analysis

All data obtained were analyzed using variance analysis with a 4x2 factorial design and three replications. When interactions between treatments were detected, a simple effect analysis was performed on each treatment combination. If no interactions were found, the main effects of each factor were evaluated. Post hoc tests for simple or main effects were conducted using Duncan's Multiple Range Test (DMRT). Data analysis was carried out with the assistance of the R program (Dakhlan 2019; R Core Team 2023).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### The effect of fermentation product level and turmeric in feed, and their interaction on broiler body weight

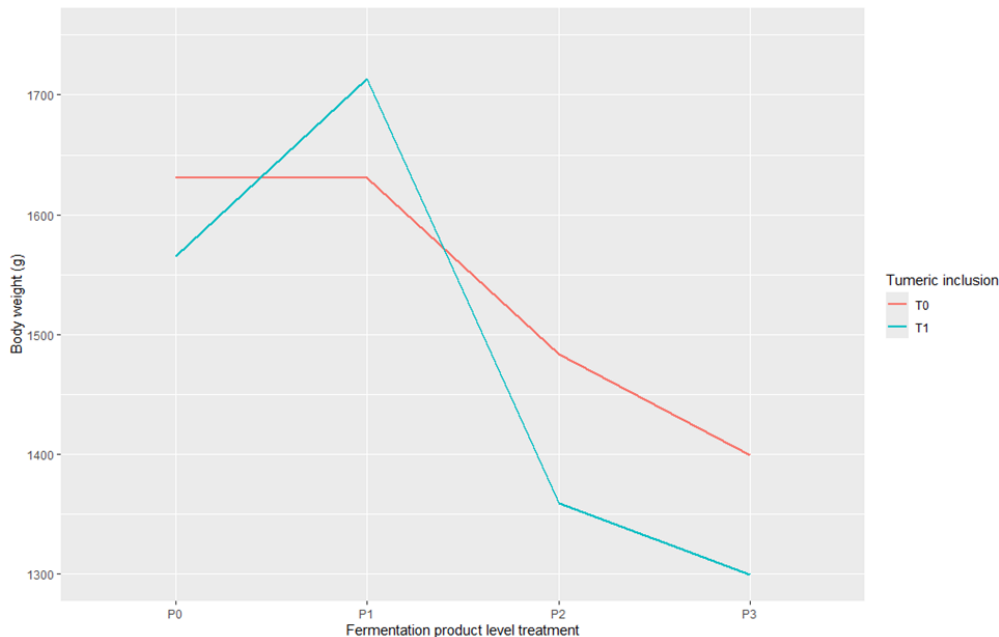
Body weight (BW) represents the manifestation of growth achieved during the study. The average body weight in each treatment combination over the course of the study (5 weeks) is presented in Table 3 and Fig. 1.

The data in Table 3 show that the highest BW of broilers was observed in treatment combination P1T1 (1713.58g), while the lowest was in treatment combination P3T1 (1299.81g). Analysis of variance results indicated

**Table 3:** The effect of fermentation product level and turmeric in feed, and their interaction on body weight (g)

Turmeric	Level of fermentation product				Turmeric Average
	P0	P1	P2	P3	
T1	1565.77	1713.58	1359.67	1299.81	1484.71
T0	1631.35	1631.22	1483.32	1398.94	1536.21
Average of fermentation product	1598.58b	1672.40b	1421.50a	1349.38a	

Note: T1 = with turmeric and T0 = without turmeric; P0, P1, P2, and P3 = successive usage levels of fermentation product at 0%, 10%, 20%, and 30% in feed; Different letters within the same row indicate significant differences ( $P < 0.05$ ).



**Fig. 1:** Body weight of broilers fed with different level of fermentation product and with and without turmeric inclusion in feed

no interaction between fermentation product level and turmeric on broiler BW. The research also revealed that the fermentation product level in the feed significantly influenced body weight ( $P < 0.05$ ). Body weight in treatments P1 and P0 did not differ significantly ( $P > 0.05$ ), but both were higher ( $P < 0.05$ ) than treatments P2 and P3. Treatments P2 and P3 did not differ significantly ( $P > 0.05$ ).

Feeds containing fermentation products up to 10% tended to increase broiler BW, while above 10%, they tended to decrease BW. The highest increase in broiler BW was observed in treatment P1 compared to other treatments. This is attributed to the nutritional availability in treatment P1 (especially CP content and energy), which is not significantly different from treatment P0. Additionally, the feed-in treatment P1 contained fermentation products that help supply probiotics and prebiotics, which aid in improving the digestion process and nutrient absorption, ultimately maximizing broiler BW achievement. This finding is consistent with Nurrady et al. (2018), who reported that continuous administration of probiotics AKBIS Prob (a mixture of soybean pulp and PKC fermented with *Aspergillus niger*) in feed can increase the amount of *Aspergillus niger* in broiler digestive tracts over time. Lin et al. (2020) and Saleh et al. (2011) reported that probiotic supplementation with *Aspergillus niger* at 1-1.25% in feed can improve intestinal microflora and morphology, as well as growth performance. Adugna and Belete (2020) stated that the administration of probiotics, including *Aspergillus niger* has a potential effect on the modulation of intestinal microflora and pathogen inhibition. Meanwhile, Nurhayati et al. (2021) reported that prebiotic supplementation from extracted fermentation products of PKC and CB in feed

can increase probiotic bacteria, suppress pathogenic bacteria, and improve villi and intestinal mucosa area in broilers. Barros et al. (2015) stated that MOS is beneficial in stimulating enzyme activity in the intestinal mucosa, which leads to reduced intestinal viscosity and more effective and efficient nutrient absorption. Furthermore, fermented products addition in feed can reduce oxidative stress levels, improve palatability, digestive health, immune function and livestock performance (Chang et al. 2022; Fu et al. 2023; Zhu et al. 2023; Lian et al. 2024). Additionally, Azizi et al. (2023) concluded that the addition of fermented products (fermented palm kernel cake) in broiler feed can help improve gut health and nutrient digestibility and improve the health and overall performance of broilers.

On the other hand, the decrease in BW in treatments P2 and P3, which were lower compared to P0, was attributed to decreasing energy and protein content and increasing fiber content in the diet (P2 and P3), resulting in insufficient nutrient supply on broilers to achieve maximum BW, so that the performance of probiotics and prebiotics in fermented products becomes ineffective and inefficient in supporting maximum BW increase.

### The influence of fermentation product levels and turmeric in feed and their interaction on carcass percentage

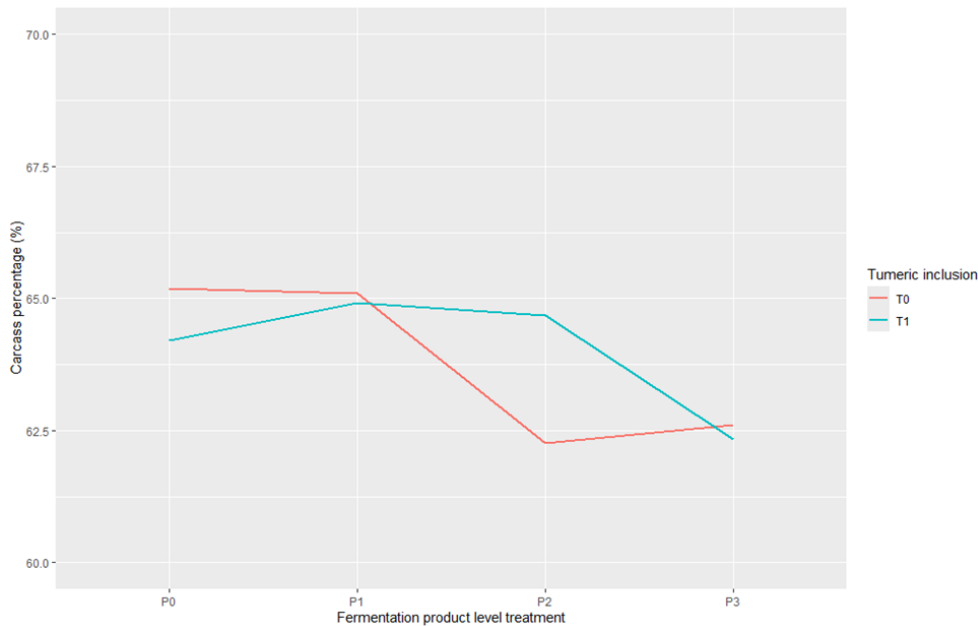
Carcass percentage is the ratio between carcass weight and live weight multiplied by 100%. The carcass percentage data is presented in Table 4 and Fig. 2.

The data in Table 4 and Fig. 2 show that the highest carcass percentage is in the P0T0 treatment combination (65.18%) and the lowest is in the P2T0 treatment (62.26%).

**Table 4:** The influence of fermentation product levels and turmeric in feed, and their interaction on carcass percentage (%)

Turmeric	Level of fermentation product				Turmeric Average
	P0	P1	P2	P3	
T1	64.20	64.91	64.68	62.33	64.03
T0	65.18	65.09	62.26	62.61	63.78
Average of fermentation product	64.69	65.00	63.47	62.47	

Note: T1 = with turmeric and T0 = without turmeric; P0, P1, P2, and P3 = successive usage levels of fermentation product at 0%, 10%, 20%, and 30% in feed.

**Fig. 2:** Carcass percentage of broilers fed with different level of fermentation product and with and without turmeric inclusion in feed

The variance analysis results indicate that there is no interaction between the levels of fermentation product and turmeric in the feed on the carcass percentage. The study results also show that each factor did not significantly affect ( $P>0.05$ ) the carcass percentage.

The carcass percentage values for treatments P0 to P3 are consistent with the BW obtained during the study. The carcass percentage in P1 and P0 is higher compared to P2 and P3, with P1 having the highest carcass percentage compared to other treatments. The reason for the highest carcass percentage in P1 is that the P1 feed contains energy and protein levels similar to P0, along with probiotics and prebiotics that help maintain digestive health, enhance feed nutrient digestibility and absorption, making it more effective and efficient for conversion to carcass.

Turmeric addition in the feed did not affect the carcass percentage but tends to result in higher T1 values than T0. This is suspected to be due to the low dosage of turmeric, resulting in insignificant carcass values. This study's results align with those of Nouzarian et al. (2011), Wang et al. (2015), Yesuf et al. (2017), Choudhury et al. (2019) and Aldiyanti et al. (2022). The carcass percentage of T1 is higher than T0, although T1's BW is lower than T0's. This indicates that turmeric supplementation positively affects feed nutrient conversion to carcass.

#### The influence of fermentation product levels and turmeric in feed, and their interaction on abdominal fat percentage

Abdominal fat percentage is the ratio of fat weight (fat surrounding the gizzard and the layer adhering between abdominal muscles and the small intestine) to live weight multiplied by 100%. The abdominal fat percentage data

from this study is presented in Table 5 and Fig. 3.

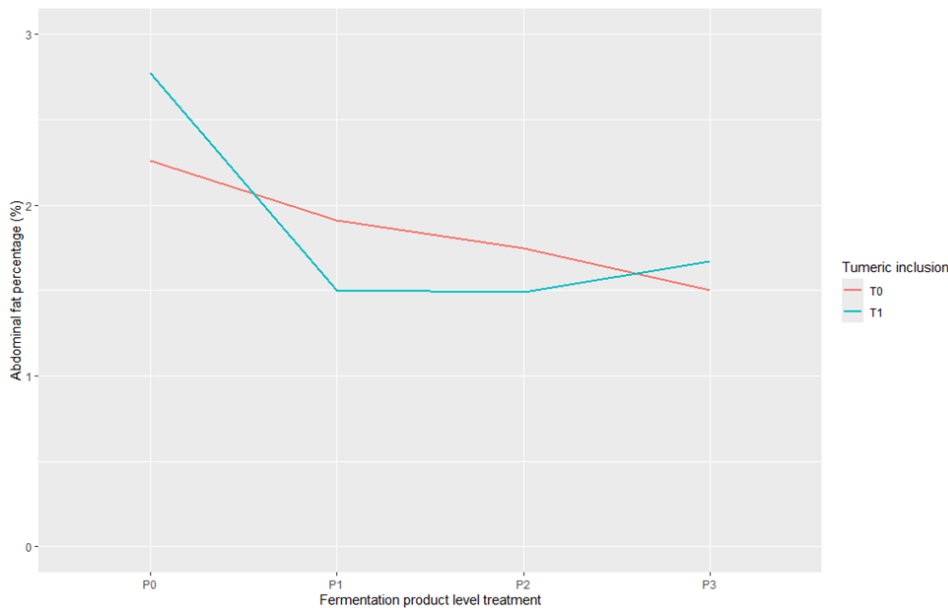
The data in Table 5 and Fig. 3 show that the highest average abdominal fat percentage is in the P0T1 treatment combination (2.77%) and the lowest is in the P2T1 treatment (1.49%). The variance analysis results indicate no interaction between the levels of fermentation product and turmeric in the feed on the abdominal fat percentage; however, the level of fermentation product usage in the feed affects the abdominal fat percentage ( $P<0.05$ ). The abdominal fat percentage in treatments P1, P2, and P3 is not significantly different ( $P>0.05$ ), and all three tend to be lower ( $P<0.05$ ) than in treatment P0. This is due to the progressively decreasing energy and fat content in the feed from P0 to P3, which decreases abdominal fat deposition from P0 to P3. Additionally, the inclusion of fermentation products containing the probiotic *Aspergillus niger* in the feed is suspected also to reduce the abdominal fat percentage. This is supported by previous studies, such as Nurhayati (2008), which showed that using fermentation products without turmeric decreased the abdominal fat percentage in broilers. Similarly, Saleh et al. (2010) found that the inclusion of the probiotic *Aspergillus niger* up to 0.1% reduced the abdominal fat content in broilers compared to the control. Nikmah et al. (2021) reported that including 10% fermentation product in the feed combined with a probiotic plus acidifier (1:1) at 0.3% in the feed reduced the abdominal fat percentage.

Prebiotics (MOS) in the fermentation product can increase non-pathogenic bacteria (*Lactobacillus*) in the digestive tract of broilers (Nurhayati et al. 2018). This condition can also impact the reduction of abdominal fat deposition. Toghyani et al. (2011) stated that although there is no clear mechanism reporting that prebiotics are

**Table 5:** The influence of fermentation product levels and turmeric in feed, and their interaction on abdominal fat percentage (%)

Turmeric	Level of fermentation product				Turmeric Average
	P0	P1	P2	P3	
T1	2.77	1.50	1.49	1.67	1.86
T0	2.26	1.91	1.75	1.50	1.85
Average of fermentation product	2.5125b	1.7025a	1.6175a	1.58a	

Note: T1 = with turmeric and T0 = without turmeric; P0, P1, P2, and P3 = successive usage levels of fermentation product at 0%, 10%, 20%, and 30% in feed; Different letters within the same row indicate significant differences ( $P < 0.05$ ).

**Fig. 3:** Abdominal fat percentage of broilers fed with different level of fermentation product and with and without turmeric inclusion in feed

responsible for reducing lipid synthesis, the lipid reduction is suspected to be due to the increase in non-pathogenic bacteria in the digestive tract (*Lactobacillus*), which can reduce the activity of acetyl-CoA carboxylase, an enzyme that stimulates the rate of fatty acid synthesis.

#### The influence of fermentation product levels and turmeric in feed and their interaction on meat fat content

The meat fat content data is obtained from the analysis of the fat content in chicken breast meat. The meat fat content data from this study is presented in Table 6 and Fig. 4. The data in Table 6 shows that the highest average fat content in meat is found in the P0T1 combination (1.04%) and the lowest is in the P3T1 treatment combination (0.48%). Analysis of variance results indicate that there is no interaction between the levels of fermented product and turmeric in the feed on meat fat content ( $P > 0.05$ ). The study also shows that each factor does not significantly affect ( $P > 0.05$ ) the meat fat content.

The meat fat content tends to decrease with the increased use of fermented products in the feed. The fat content in the P1, P2, and P3 treatments tends to be lower compared to the control. This is due to the lower energy and fat content in treatment diets of P1, P2, and P3 compared to the control, as a result of the increased use of fermented products, leading to lower fat deposition in the broiler meat of the three treatments (P1, P2, and P3) compared to the control.

#### The influence of fermentation product levels and turmeric in feed and their interaction on blood cholesterol

Cholesterol is a type of sterol (zoosterol) commonly found in animal tissues. Cholesterol in the body comes from food (exogenous cholesterol) and from synthesis

within the body (endogenous cholesterol). The blood cholesterol data from this study is presented in Table 7 and Fig. 5.

The data in Table 7 and Fig. 5 show that the highest average blood cholesterol is found in the P0T1 treatment combination (129.00mg/dL), while the lowest is in the P3T1 treatment combination (110.5mg/dL). Analysis of variance results indicate that there is an interaction between the levels of fermented product and turmeric in the feed on blood cholesterol levels ( $P < 0.05$ ). Based on the average blood cholesterol data, it shows that the addition of fermented products tends to reduce blood cholesterol levels. This is due to the effect of *Aspergillus niger* as a probiotic in the fermented product, which inhibits the enzyme 3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl-CoA reductase, thereby inhibiting cholesterol synthesis (Saleh et al. 2011). Meanwhile, Reis et al. (2017) stated that propionic acid produced by non-pathogenic microorganisms (probiotics) can inhibit the activity of the enzyme hydroxymethyl-3-glutaryl-CoA reductase. The decrease in cholesterol levels in this study is in line with Lin et al. (2020), who found that the administration of *Aspergillus niger* as a probiotic in feed can significantly reduce blood cholesterol levels in broilers.

Furthermore, the provision of fermented products containing prebiotic MOS also contributes to the reduction of blood cholesterol levels in broilers. Manno oligosaccharides are fermented by non-pathogenic microorganisms in the intestines, producing SCFA, one of which is propionic acid. Propionic acid can inhibit the activity of the enzyme hydroxymethyl-3-glutaryl-CoA reductase, which plays a role in cholesterol synthesis. Samal and Behura (2015) stated that prebiotics lower cholesterol by reducing the activity of all lipogenic

**Table 6:** The influence of fermentation product levels and turmeric in feed, and their interactions on meat fat content (%)

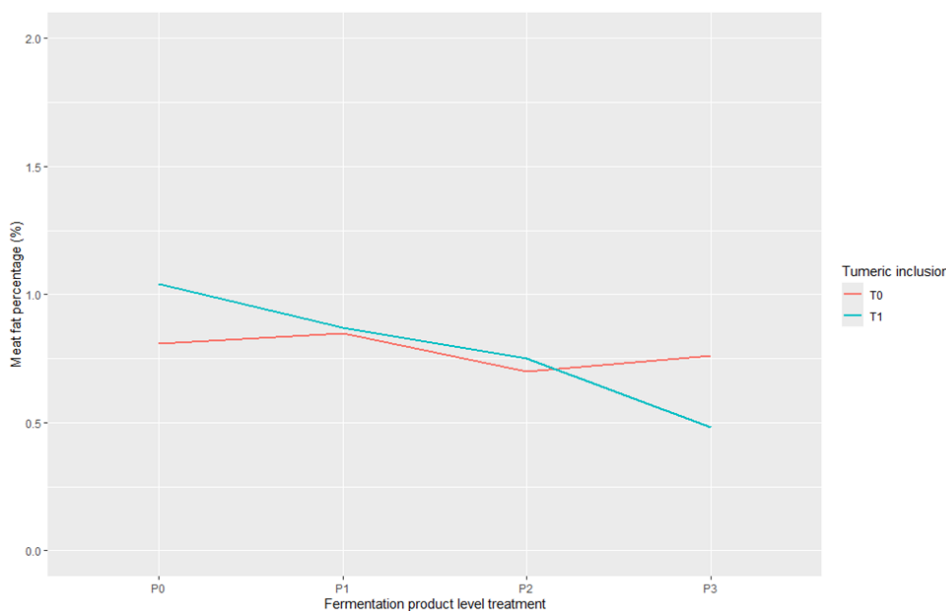
Turmeric	Level of fermentation product				Turmeric Average
	P0	P1	P2	P3	
T1	1.04	0.87	0.75	0.48	0.78
T0	0.81	0.85	0.70	0.76	0.78
Average of fermentation product	0.93	0.86	0.73	0.62	

Note: T1 = with turmeric and T0 = without turmeric; P0, P1, P2, and P3 = successive usage levels of fermentation product at 0%, 10%, 20%, and 30% in feed.

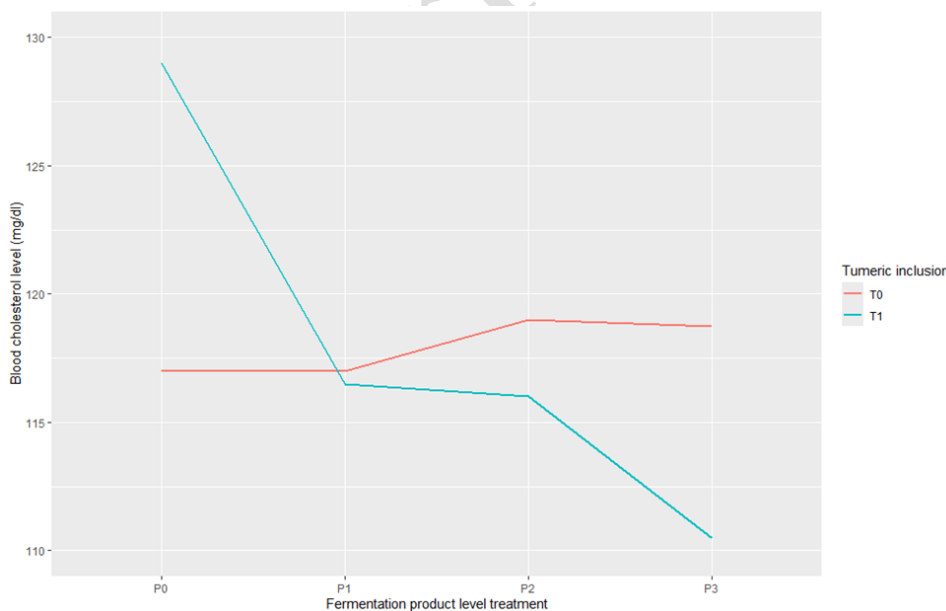
**Table 7:** The influence of fermentation product levels and turmeric in feed, and their interaction on blood cholesterol (mg/dL)

Turmeric	Level of fermentation product				Turmeric Average
	P0	P1	P2	P3	
T1	129c	116.5b	116b	110.5a	115a
T0	117b	117b	119b	118.75b	118b
Average of fermentation product	123c	116.75ab	117.5b	114.625a	

Note: T1 = with turmeric and T0 = without turmeric; P0, P1, P2, and P3 = successive usage levels of fermentation product at 0%, 10%, 20%, and 30% in feed; Different letters in the same row or column of main effect indicate significant differences (P<0.05); different letter across row and column of simple effect (treatment combination) indicate significant differences (P<0.05).



**Fig. 4:** Meat fat percentage of broilers fed with different level of fermentation product and with and without turmeric inclusion in feed.



**Fig. 5:** Blood cholesterol level of broilers fed with different level of fermentation product and with and without turmeric inclusion in feed

enzymes such as acetyl-CoA carboxylase, fatty acid synthase, malic enzyme, ATP citrate lyase, and glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase. Additionally, prebiotics can

increase bile acid deconjugation, thereby increasing bile acid excretion and lowering cholesterol. The decrease in cholesterol levels in this study was consistent with the

findings of Maddahian et al. (2015), Ghazalah et al. (2021), and Youssef et al. (2023), who stated that the provision of prebiotic MOS tends to lower cholesterol compared to the control.

Meanwhile, based on the average blood cholesterol data, it shows that the provision of turmeric affects the reduction of cholesterol levels. This is due to the curcumin in turmeric, which can lower cholesterol levels. The effect of turmeric on reducing blood cholesterol levels in broilers in this study is consistent with the findings of Nouzarian et al. (2011) and Arslan et al. (2017). Curcumin reduces cholesterol by inhibiting the activity of the liver enzyme (3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl-CoA reductase (HMGCR)), which is responsible for cholesterol synthesis in the liver (Al-Sanjary et al. 2023). Additionally, Saraswati et al. (2013) stated that curcumin can interfere with cholesterol reabsorption in the intestinal tract, thereby reducing cholesterol reabsorption.

Based on the cholesterol data, it is proven that there is a synergistic effect from the combined use of fermented products and turmeric in the feed in reducing blood cholesterol levels in broilers, even though this interaction is not yet visible in variables other than cholesterol levels. This condition encourages further research to increase the dosage of turmeric in the feed, so the synergistic effect of using fermented products and providing turmeric can significantly impact all research variables.

### Conclusion

Based on the results and discussion above, it can be concluded that there is an interaction between the levels of fermented product use and the provision of turmeric on blood cholesterol levels. The combination of a 30% level of fermented product use and turmeric resulted in the lowest cholesterol level (110.5mg/dL). The treatment level of fermented product use affects body weight, abdominal fat percentage, and blood cholesterol levels, but does not affect carcass percentage and meat fat content. On the other hand, the treatment of providing turmeric only affects blood cholesterol levels and tends to increase the carcass percentage. The suggestion related to the results of this study is to increase the dosage of turmeric in the feed. This is expected to enhance the effect of the treatment level of using the fermented product mix of palm kernel cake and cassava byproduct combined with turmeric, thereby significantly affecting all the variables studied.

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### Author's contribution

N: responsible for conceptualization, drafting the original manuscript, and conducting statistical analyses. CUW: managed methodology and supervision. DDP: carried out review and manuscript editing. All authors approved the final version of the manuscript.

### Conflict of interest

The authors have declared that there is no conflict of interest.

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