Prebiotics as Immunopotent Nutritional Supplement: An Expert Review

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ABSTRACT
Prebiotics are non-digestible feed ingredients that have beneficial effect on the host by selectively stimulating the growth or activity of one or a limited number of bacterial species, already resident in colon and thus attempt to improve host health.
Keywords: Feed, Immunostimulation, Prebiotics

INTRODUCTION
Mainly prebiotics are small fragments of carbohydrates and commercially available as oligosaccharides of galactose, fructose or mannose. Supplementation of dietary prebiotics viz., dietary organic acid (OA) supplements, mannan oligosaccharide (MOS), β-glucan and xylanase supplementation are mainly used in order to enhance live body weight gain, dressing percentage, weight of vital organs and muscles and mean villus lengths in digestive tract of poultry birds. Immunomodulatory properties
Prebiotics can also act as immunostimulants. The term immunostimulant is used interchangeably with immunomodulator, adjuvant and biological response modifier. Immunostimulators can be in the form of drugs and nutrients. They stimulate the monocyte-macrophage system and thereby modulate the immune system of the body.

CONCLUSION
Supplementation of poultry feed with dietary probiotics in proper proportions can enhance the immune system of the host by providing increased resistance to infections.

REFERENCES