

Use of Bacillus Subtilis Var. Natto in Production of Fermented Animal Feed

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ABSTRACT

Soybean meal contains rich proteins and is considered as the most economically beneficial feeds for animals, but its anti-nutritional ingredients make its nutrition value and application vulnerable to limitation. On the other hand, the prohibition of antibiotics supplementation in the animal feeds by European Union countries have impacted the operation of animal farmers and feed producers. Bacillus subtilis var. natto (B. natto) bacteria can enhance the immunity of livestock and exhibits probiotic effects. It can secrete many kinds of hydrolytic enzymes with powerful fermentation abilities and is the best alternative for substituting antibiotics in the feeds. However, the price of B. natto probiotics on the market is substantially high and cannot be extensively used in animal feeds. However, if B. natto is directly used for fermentation of soybean meal, it can both increase its nutritional value by degrading its antinutritional factors and hydrolyzing other ingredients, and let fermented soybean contain a large number of B. natto spores with probiotic benefits and low feeding cost. The study applied solid-state fermentation method to fermentation of soybean meal by direct use of B. natto powder for production of fermented feeds, able to efficiently raise the number of B. natto spores in the feed. Direct inoculation of 0.1% commercial B. natto spore powder in the fermentation resulted in 109 CFU/g of spores formed in fermented feeds after 24 hours fermentation. The higher ratio of water to soybean meal led to the more growth of vegetative cells and more formation of ammonium nitrogen in fermentation of soybean meal by B. natto. Fermentation at higher temperature shortened the lag phase of cellular growth and therefore fastened cellular growth, but resulting in less formation of spores. Stirring of soybean meal during solid-state fermentation might create an environment for maintaining appropriate humidity and aeration and thus helped growth of B. natto but not formation of spores. Fermentation of sterilized soybean meal produced less ammonium nitrogen and also less spore formation. Addition of wheat bran as supplement in soybean meal during fermentation did enhance growth of cell and formation of spores but in turn increase production of ammonium nitrogen. Spiking of corn meal could increase the vegetative cell number but not significantly help formation of spores in the harvested product. Fermentation of soybean meal under room temperatures with 0.8 water ratio took only 20 hours to produce 3×10^8 CFU/g of B. natto spores with a few amount of ammonia nitrogen (0.05%) in fermented soybean meal. And when a 0.6 water ratio was used, it took 28 hours to obtain 3×10^8 CFU/g of B. natto spores with a few amount of ammonia nitrogen (0.02%), and even only took 32 hours to have 109 CFU/g of B. natto spores with a low amount of ammonium nitrogen (0.03%) in fermented soybean meal. To the operation of ordinary farmers and small entrepreneurs, fermentation of soybean meal by B. natto was best conducted at 37 ° C with a water / meal ratio of 0.6, capable of yielding a spore number reaching 109 CFU per gram of fermented feeds with a low amount of ammonium nitrogen (0.06%) after 20 hours fermentation.

Keywords : solid-state fermentation ; soybean meal ; Bacillus subtilis var. natto ; spore ; ammonium nitrogen ; fermented feed

Table of Contents

1. 緒言.....	1	2. 文獻討論.....	2	2.1 動物飼料.....	2	2.2 大豆																																																																						
豆.....	3	2.3 大豆粕.....	4	2.3.1 大豆粕的製造過程.....	4	2.3.2 大豆粕於飼料中的應用.....	5	2.3.3 大豆粕中的抗營養因子.....	5	2.3.4 大豆粕的發酵.....	6	2.4 納豆菌.....	7	2.4.1 納豆菌與微生物間的關係.....	7	2.4.2 飼料中添加納豆菌的益處.....	8	2.5 益生菌介紹.....	8	2.5.1 益生菌應具有的特性.....	9	2.5.2 益生菌作用機制.....	10	2.5.3 益生菌的保存.....	10	2.6 腸道菌相與動物間的關係.....	11	2.6.1 益生菌於消化系統中的好處.....	11	3. 材料與方法.....	12	3.1 實驗材料.....	12	3.1.1 大豆粕.....	12	3.1.2 玉米粕、麩皮.....	12	3.1.3 納豆菌.....	12	3.2 儀器設備.....	12	3.2.1 儀器.....	13	3.2.2 器具與耗材.....	13	3.3 培養基.....	13	3.4 藥品.....	14	3.5 試藥配製.....	14	3.6 實驗方法.....	15	3.6.1 大豆粕發酵實驗.....	15	3.6.2 影響大豆粕發酵的變數.....	15	3.7 分析方法.....	16	3.7.1 納豆菌之總菌數分析方法.....	16	3.7.2 納豆菌之孢子數分析方法.....	17	3.7.3 氨態氮分析方法.....	17	4. 結果與討論.....	19	4.1 以搖瓶液態發酵進行大豆粕發酵之可行性試驗..	19	4.2 納豆菌接種量對大豆粕發酵的影響.....	19	4.2.1 納豆菌接種量對氨氮產量的影響.....	20	4.2.2 納豆菌接種量對納豆菌產孢的影響.....	21	4.3 發酵溫度

與含水量對大豆粕發酵的影響.....	22	4.3.1 在室溫發酵下含水量對大豆粕發酵的影響.....	22	4.3.1.1 對氮氮產量的影響.....	23
23 4.3.1.2 對納豆菌產孢的影響.....	23	4.3.2 在37 發酵下含水量對大豆粕發酵的影響....	24	4.3.2.1 對氮氮產量的影響.....	24
24 4.3.2.2 對納豆菌產孢的影響.....	25	4.3.3 在40 發酵下含水量對氮氮產量的影響.....	25	4.3.3.1 對氮氮產量的影響.....	26
26 4.3.3.2 對納豆菌產孢的影響.....	26	4.3.4 在45 發酵下含水量對大豆粕發酵的影響....	27	4.3.4.1 對氮氮產量的影響.....	27
27 4.3.4.2 對納豆菌產孢的影響.....	27	4.4 大豆粕滅菌處理對大豆粕發酵的影響.....	28	4.4.1 在37 發酵下含水量對大豆粕發酵的影響.....	28
28 4.4.1.1 對氮氮產量的影響.....	29	4.4.1.2 對總菌數的影響.....	29	4.4.1.3 對納豆菌產孢的影響.....	30
29 4.4.1.3 對納豆菌產孢的影響.....	30	4.4.2 在大豆粕滅菌處理下發酵溫度及含水量對發酵的影響.....	31	4.4.2.1 對氮氮產量的影響.....	32
32 4.4.2.2 對總菌數的影響.....	32	4.4.2.3 對納豆菌產孢的影響.....	33	4.5 翻堆處理對大豆粕發酵的影響.....	33
33 4.5.1 對氮氮產量的影響.....	34	4.5.2 對總菌數的影響.....	34	4.5.3 對納豆菌產孢的影響.....	34
34 4.5.3 對納豆菌產孢的影響.....	34	4.6 濕度控制對大豆粕發酵的影響.....	35	4.6.1 對氮氮產量的影響.....	35
35 4.6.1 對氮氮產量的影響.....	35	4.6.2 對總菌數的影響.....	35	4.6.3 對納豆菌產孢的影響.....	36
36 4.7 添加麩皮及玉米粕對大豆粕發酵的影響.....	36	4.7.1 添加麩皮對大豆粕發酵的影響.....	36	4.7.1.1 對氮氮產量的影響.....	37
36 4.7.1.1 對氮氮產量的影響.....	37	4.7.1.2 對納豆菌產孢的影響.....	37	4.7.1.3 大豆粕及麩皮一起滅菌處理對氮氮產量的影響.....	38
37 4.7.1.2 對納豆菌產孢的影響.....	38	4.7.1.4 大豆粕及麩皮一起滅菌處理對總菌數的影響.....	38	4.7.1.5 大豆粕及麩皮一起滅菌處理對納豆菌產孢的影響.....	38
38 4.7.1.4 大豆粕及麩皮一起滅菌處理對總菌數的影響.....	38	4.7.2 添加玉米粕對大豆粕發酵的影響.....	38	4.7.2.1 對氮氮產量的影響.....	39
38 4.7.2.1 對氮氮產量的影響.....	39	4.7.2.2 對納豆菌產孢的影響.....	39	4.7.2.3 大豆粕及玉米粕一起滅菌處理對氮氮產量的影響.....	40
39 4.7.2.2 對納豆菌產孢的影響.....	40	4.7.2.4 大豆粕及玉米粕一起滅菌處理對總菌數的影響.....	40	4.7.2.5 大豆粕及玉米粕一起滅菌處理對納豆菌產孢的影響.....	40
40 4.7.2.4 大豆粕及玉米粕一起滅菌處理對總菌數的影響.....	40	4.8 大豆粕發酵飼料放大生產試驗.....	41	4.8.1 氮氮產量.....	41
40 4.8 大豆粕發酵飼料放大生產試驗.....	41	4.8.2 納豆菌產孢能力試驗.....	41	5. 結論.....	42
41 4.8.2 納豆菌產孢能力試驗.....	41	參考文獻.....	84		

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