Aromabiotic-MCFA,

acids with added value for pigs

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Since the beginning of the search for alternatives for antimicrobial growth promoters, almost 10 years ago, Nuscience (before Vitamex) has been the industry frontrunner in the use of Medium Chain Fatty Acids.

An interview with the Nuscience' experts:

First of all, what is meant by MCFA?

Geert Bruggeman: "Indeed it is important that we speak the same language. MCFA is the abbreviation of **M**edium **C**hain **F**atty **A**cids, being saturated fatty acids with a total chain length of either 6 (caproic acid), 8 (caprylic acid), 10 (capric acid) or 12 (lauric acid) carbon atoms."

Out of curiosity… where does the name Aromabiotic originate?

Katrien Deschepper: "We get this question a lot… Aromabiotic was developed during the search for alternatives for antimicrobial (antibiotic) growth promoters. In analogy the new product was called *–biotic*. To improve feed intake an aroma was added what resulted in the name *Aromabiotic*. "

Nuscience invented Aromabiotic… how did this happen?

Geert Bruggeman: "Fundamental research is my cup of tea! Nuscience is active in national, bilateral and international research projects. Our R&D participation resulted in the development of leading compounds as alternatives for AGP. They were further explored *in house* and resulted in the creation of Aromabiotic."

"Aromabiotic is active both on microflora level (GIT) and host (animal) level."

What is the mode of action of Aromabiotic?

Geert Bruggeman: "Where do I start? Our passion for Aromabiotic made us invest a lot of resources in unraveling its modes of action. Aromabiotic is active both on microflora level (GIT) and host (animal) level. Not only are Aromabiotic-MCFA effective antimicrobials, they are also known to reduce virulence of pathogens. At host level Aromabiotic is able to improve intestinal morphology and recent research showed a better immune status of the animals."

Nuscience developed multiple 'Aromabiotics'. Are they all the same?

Katrien Deschepper "No, of course not! An intense process of product development, based on both *in vitro* and *in vivo* trials in combination with literature research resulted in the creation of three different formulas. **Aromabiotic** has been primarily developed for pig(let)s, where benefits like less problems at weaning and better zootechnical performances (growth, FCR) have been demonstrated. My background in poultry research, prompted us to develop Aromabiotic Poultry, a specific adapted formula for poultry (broilers, turkeys). More recently novel modes of action were revealed and Aromabiotic Cattle for ruminants was developed."

"With Aromabiotic Nuscience offers pure, stable and well-defined mixtures of activated MCFA"

In what way do we 'get more than expected'?

Katrien Deschepper: "Nice slogan from our marketing department, don't you think? Actually it contains a lot of value! Not only will zootechnical performances grow beyond your expectations, also regarding further improvement of products you will get more than expected. Vitamex is continuously improving its products by developing state of the art concepts. In pigs for example, Aromabiotic-MCFA were integrated in a broader concept, **Salbiotic**, focusing on the prevention of *Salmonella*-infections."

MCFA are getting more widely accepted as a functional feed ingredient. What makes Aromabiotic different?

Geert Bruggeman: "With Aromabiotic Nuscience offers pure, stable and well defined mixtures of activated MCFA. *Pure* because of the nature of the (physical) production process no contaminants and only MCFA are present. *Stable* because of the inherent chemical stability of these molecules. *Well-defined*: as Katrien stated earlier each animal species has its own optimal composition. *Activated*, as Aromabiotic delivers MCFA in their active form, it's instantly able to exhibit its mode of action. No other substances (like enzymes) are needed for activation. And last but not least we are proud that we could convert this innovation into a patented application."

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