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## Effects of Dietary Potassium Diformate in Piglets and Fatteners under Tropical Conditions – A Performance Analysis

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### Abstract

Dietary potassium diformate (KDF) has been widely applied in pig production for almost 20 years and has been reported in numerous publications and conference contributions for its use in sows, piglets and fatteners. It was the first organic acid salt to be approved as a non-antibiotic growth promoter in pig feed in the European Union, where it has been shown to improve growth performance and feed efficiency in pig production in several efficacy trials. A holo-analysis of all published data on KDF under temperate conditions (n=59) demonstrated that the additive significantly improved feed intake (+3.52%), weight gain (+8.67%) and FCR (-4.20%) compared to negative controls.

As a result of its success in Europe, it has also subsequently been tested under tropical conditions.

This study analysed the average impact from all data collected under tropical conditions on the effect of the additive on the performance parameters weight gain and feed efficiency from commercial and academic trials. The final data-set contained the results of 18 documented studies, comprising 37 trials with KDF-inclusion in piglets and fatteners, at an inclusion rate ranging from 0.2% to 1.8%. These studies were carried out between 2003 and 2015 in Australia, Brazil, China, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam under both commercial and institutional conditions and included more than 3620 pigs. The results are expressed as the percentage difference from the negative control. The average level of dietary KDF from the data-set in all treated pigs was 0.80%. Daily gain was significantly increased by 11.2% ( $p < 0.001$ ). Furthermore, the FCR was also significantly improved (6.3%;  $p < 0.001$ ).

In agreement with the findings of the holo-analysis, this study shows that dietary potassium diformate can also significantly improve pig production under tropical conditions, demonstrating that the additive is a valuable tool in reducing reliance on antibiotic growth promoters.

**Keywords:** Fatteners, feed efficiency, piglet, potassium diformate, weight gain