Animal feed enzyme solutions optimise feed cost and consistency

Specific enzyme solutions that will be made available to the animal feed industry in the Middle East and Africa could help farmers optimise feed costs and enhance animal performance, particularly in the case of poultry and pigs.

This was announced by Cargill and BASF at the recent Animal Feed Manufacturers’ Association Forum, which took place at Sun City in North West.

‘THE ENZYMES ONLY WORK EFFECTIVELY 50% OF THE TIME’

The announcement followed a recent collaboration agreement between the companies, said Coen van der Laan, strategic marketing and technology director of Cargill’s animal nutrition business in the Middle East and Africa.

Cargill was one of the leaders in the animal nutrition and health solutions market, while BASF specialised in enzymes and owned a genomic library with a high number of micro-organisms.

“Enzyme categories that are used in feed mixes (premix or complete feed) respond differently based on animal and diet types.

“While phytase has proven efficacy and consistent response in both wheat- and maize-based diets for poultry, the same is not true for carbohydrase enzymes, which work consistently only in wheat-based diets.”

According to him, many years of research and field experience by Cargill had concluded that most of the current commercial products available on the market for maize and soya bean-based diets did not meet expectations as they were found to have a 50% consistency.

“This means that the enzymes only work effectively 50% of the time, and with the other half you don’t see a response, which isn’t cost-effective.”

Cargill had recognised this gap in the market and had invested in finding the correct enzyme solution. – Siyanda Sishuba

R50 million investment in new research and training feed mill

A R50 million research and training feed mill was launched at the recent Animal Feed Manufacturers’ Association (AFMA) Forum.

The facility is located at the University of Pretoria’s (UP) Miertjie le Roux Experimental Farm near Bronkhorstspruit.

Dr Hinner Köster, chairperson of AFMA, said the AFMA/UP training facility would be Africa’s first research and training feed mill.

The main objective of the project was to close the gap that currently existed in the skills set of most animal nutrition students completing tertiary qualifications.

“Postgraduate students don’t have a practical feed milling environment to conduct proper, practical and innovative research and development.

“Due to the lack of physical infrastructure and means to give shape to the practical side of the theory in the past, tertiary academic institutions couldn’t include this in their undergraduate or postgraduate curricula,” Köster said.

This skills set was only developed after students were employed in the formal feed industry, and it could take up to three or four years of in-house training before an employer started reaping the benefits of the investment made in the employee, he said.

The facility would assist in delivering practically equipped students to the industry, which would shorten the time spent on in-house training, and provide the necessary capacity to the industry to undertake innovative research and development, such as trials on feed products, Köster said. – Siyanda Sishuba