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AB Vista to reveal new research into mineral utilisation in piglet diets at Pig Focus Asia

New research into optimising piglet performance and trace mineral nutrition will be presented by AB Vista at this year's Pig Focus Asia conference in Bangkok, March 21-23.

Delegates will be given an insight into how phytase superdosing can maximise the efficiency of a piglet's diet by releasing vital minerals such as zinc, iron and copper through the complete breakdown of phytate.

Dr Pete Wilcock, Technical Manager at AB Vista, will explain how the presence of phytate can significantly reduce mineral availability and how breaking down more of that phytate plays a vital role in optimising diets.

"Trace minerals play a key role in enhancing piglet performance, but phytate (otherwise known as phytic acid) binds strongly to negatively-charged mineral ions within the diet, such as zinc, copper and iron.

"Moreover, it has been found that the lower esters of phytate (IP6), such as IP5, IP4 and IP3 can have a similarly negative effect on nutrient digestibility as IP6.

The research, to be presented in Bangkok, will show that targeting the rapid destruction of phytate with minimal accumulation of lower esters could greatly improve animal performance. This, Dr Wilcock says, may be achieved by selecting a phytase with optimal characteristics for IP6, IP5, IP4 and IP3 breakdown at superdosed levels.

“With phytate having the ability to bind dietary cations (e.g. Ca²⁺, Zn²⁺, Fe²⁺ and Cu²⁺), the effect of superdosing phytase on mineral utilisation has interest beyond improved digestibility or retention. It could also allow for a similar or even better performance at a lower dietary mineral level, saving feed cost and reducing mineral excretion.”

Pig Focus Asia runs between March 21 and 23 in Bangkok, Thailand. Mr Wilcock’s presentation, *The effect of superdosing phytase on performance and mineral utilisation*, will take place on March 21 at 16.00 (local time).

For more information, contact AB Vista on +44(0)1672 517 650 or info@abvista.com.

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Notes to editor:

AB Vista is an animal nutrition technology company offering pioneering products and technical services to the global animal feed industry. Since its establishment in 2004, AB Vista has grown to be a top-three player in feed enzymes and is also one of the largest suppliers of natural betaine to the global animal nutrition industry. The company invests heavily in research and development and has a growing portfolio of products and services spanning the poultry, swine, ruminant and aquaculture sectors. AB Vista is headquartered in the UK, with regional offices located in the USA, Brazil, Singapore, Spain, India, China, Germany and Finland.

AB Vista is part of AB Agri, the agricultural division of Associated British Foods, one of Europe's largest food & retail companies with a market capitalisation of £26 billion.

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