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Abstract: The objective of this study was to evaluate the effect of the use of a probiotic on the growth and health of broiler chickens. The study was conducted in a commercial broiler farm in São Paulo, Brazil. The birds were divided into two groups: a control group and a probiotic group. The probiotic group received a probiotic supplement during the first 14 days of life. The results showed that the probiotic group had a higher average body weight and a lower mortality rate compared to the control group. The probiotic also improved the feed conversion ratio and the overall health of the birds. The study concluded that the use of a probiotic is a viable and effective strategy to improve the performance and health of broiler chickens.

Edir Nepomuceno Silva has completed his PhD in 1978 from State University of Sao Paulo (USP), Brazil and Postdoctoral studies from University of Massachusetts, USA. He has lectured on diseases of poultry, food hygiene and safety on poultry products and was retired as a full Professor. He has published more than 50 papers in reputed journals. He is the Founder in 1981 of the *Brazilian Poultry Science* an annual poultry conference, training courses and seminars. He has published several technical teaching books and a Brazilian Poultry Science journal, since he has been on the Facta's Executive Committee. FACTA hosted the World Poultry Congress in 2012, and he became the President of the World's Poultry Science Association (2012-16). As an Entrepreneur, he established a poultry vaccine company, a poultry diagnostic laboratory and a probiotic/prebiotic company.

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