Abstract
An experiment was carried out to evaluate a feed additive made with oligosaccharids and dextran (Meito Healthy Friend? ) (MHF) using broilers fed with two levels of crude protein in the diet. The productivity of the birds and the possible infection of Salmonella were recorded. One hundred and seventy one-day-old Peterson Hubbard male broilers were assigned to 4 treatments in a tropical environment. Six animals were slaughtered on day one, and another six ones on day seventh to detect Salmonella in the digestive tract. The rest of them were assigned to the treatments using a randomized design with a factorial 2 x 2 arrangement. The first factor was the type of sugar added to the diets: MHF and sugar cane sugar. The second factor was the level of crude protein in the diet: the one suggested by the NRC tables or 1% lower level. Excreta was sampled by means of cloacal swabs taken from 10 birds of each treatment, during the third, fifth and sixth week of age. At 6½ weeks of age, blood serum was taken. All samples were submitted to bacteriological analyses. Results showed that final body weight and feed intake were not affected by the type of sugar used (P>.05), whereas the reduced protein level improved these results (P<.05). Salmonella was only detected at 5 weeks of age; 87% of the birds fed with the sugar cane sugar treatment were positive, as opposed to 25% of the birds fed with MHF (P<.01). Results show that MHF reduces salmonellosis in the digestive tract of broilers fed in a tropical environment and exposed to Salmonella, without altering their productivity.

Keywords
probiotic, tropical environment, broiler, Salmonella.