



The dietary fibres: definition and analysis in animal feeding, and their role in rabbit nutrition and health

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European Society of Veterinary and Comparative Nutrition

The dietary fibres: definition and analysis in animal feeding, and their role in rabbit nutrition and health.

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19th ESVCN congress
Toulouse : september 17-19

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- ❖ Recalls: effects of fibres on rabbit ingestion and digestion
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- ❖ Fibres requirements and European tables
- ❖ Conclusions & perspectives

1. Context

Digestive health in the growing rabbit

* Digestive troubles **after weaning** = 10 - 15% mortality
=> preventive **antibiotherapy**



* **Digestive health / troubles = ??**

diarrhoea, caecal impaction, mucus +

+ intake troubles, weak growth, behaviour troubles (caecotrophy ...)

Origins :

• infectious : coccidiosis, colibacillosis, REE

• non-infectious risk factors:

* stress, environnement (ventilation, heating),

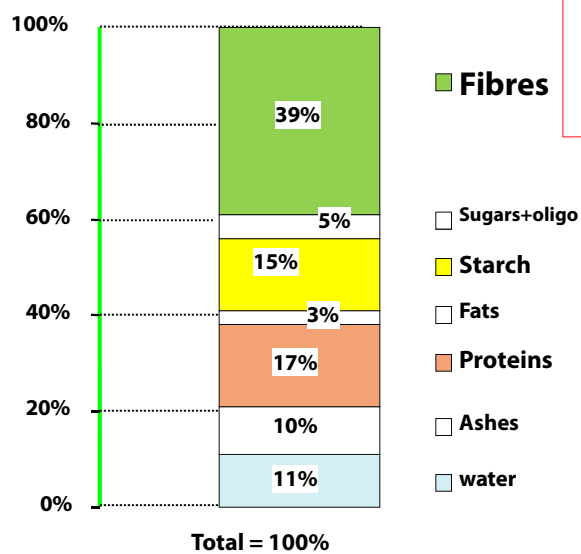
* **unbalanced feeds**

impact of nutrition on rabbit digestive health => YES

The rabbit is **herbivorous** : unsufficient **fibres intake** =>

higher RISK of digestive trouble after weaning

Main nutrients in a feed for a growing rabbit



Fibres intake =
51 g / day
+ 11 g/d
from soft faeces



Previous studies :

relationship among crude fibre and "mortality by diarrhoea"

Results : requirements in CRUDE FIBRE ??

very variable / unprecise 6 to 14% !

<i>Niehaus 1968 :</i>	6 - 14 %
<i>Morand Fehr 1970 :</i>	12 - 17 %
<i>Heckmann & Menner 1970 :</i>	8 - 9 %
<i>Martina 1974 :</i>	6 - 8,4 %
<i>Lebas 1975, 1984 :</i>	13 - 14 %
<i>Colin 1976 :</i>	12 %
<i>NRC 1977 :</i>	10 - 12 %
<i>Lang 1981 :</i>	12-14 %
<i>Maertens 1992 :</i>	> 14,5 %

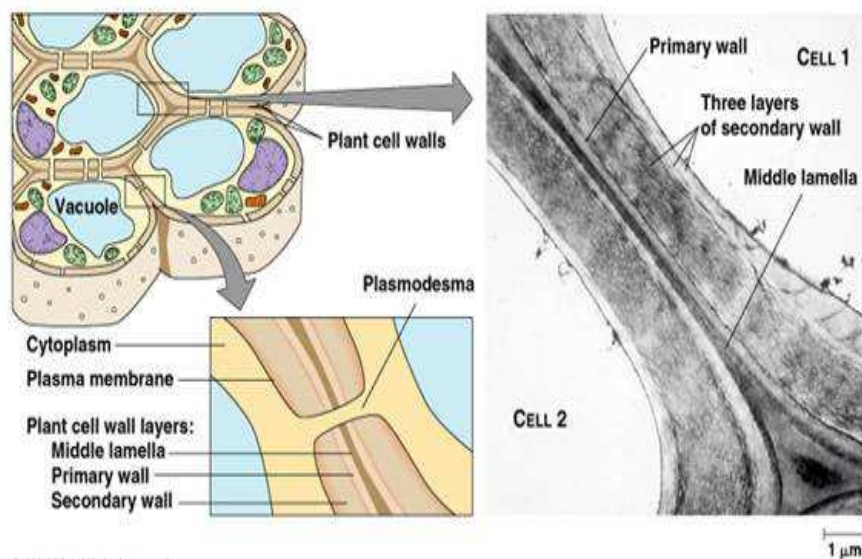


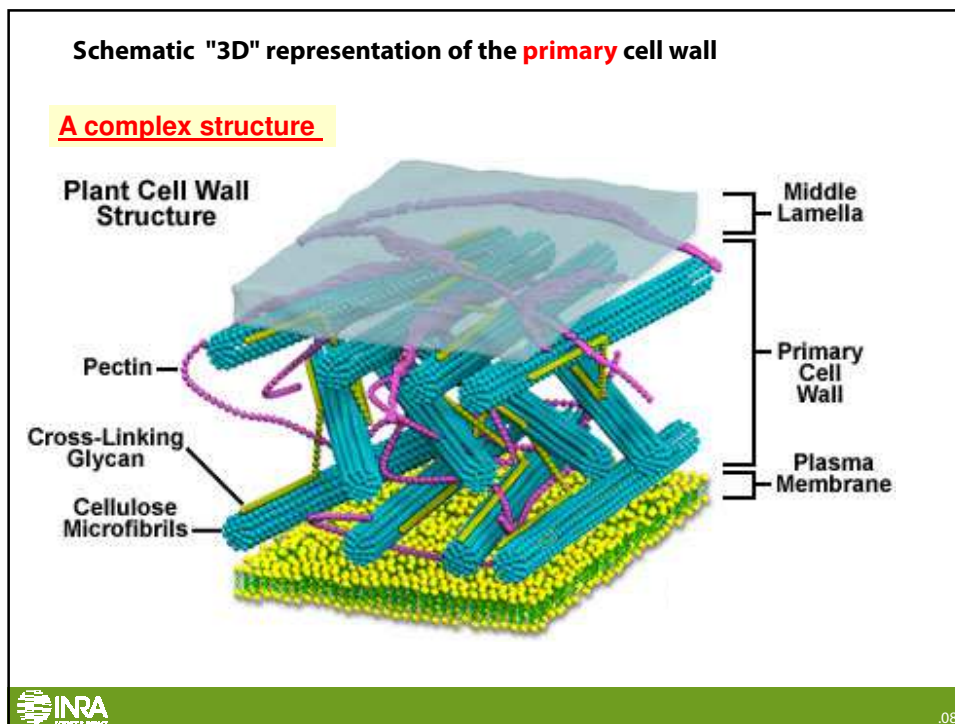
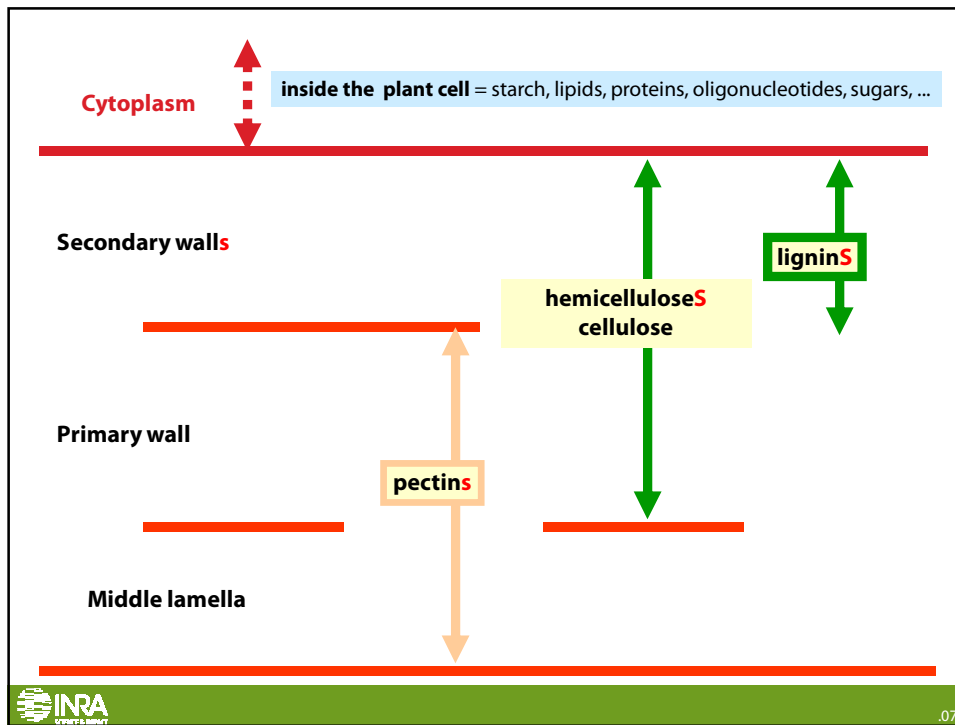
How to improve the precision of these requirements ?

Other criteria to be studied ?

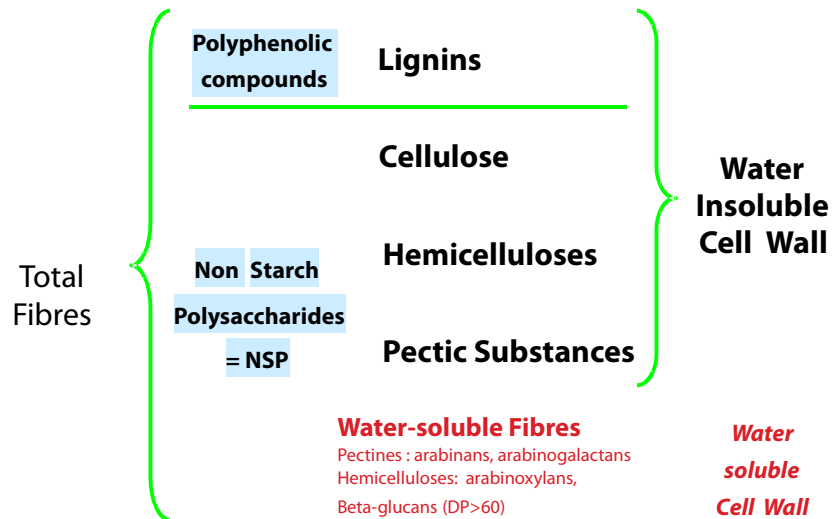
2. Recalls on fibres : origin, structure, methods

Standard plant cell wall

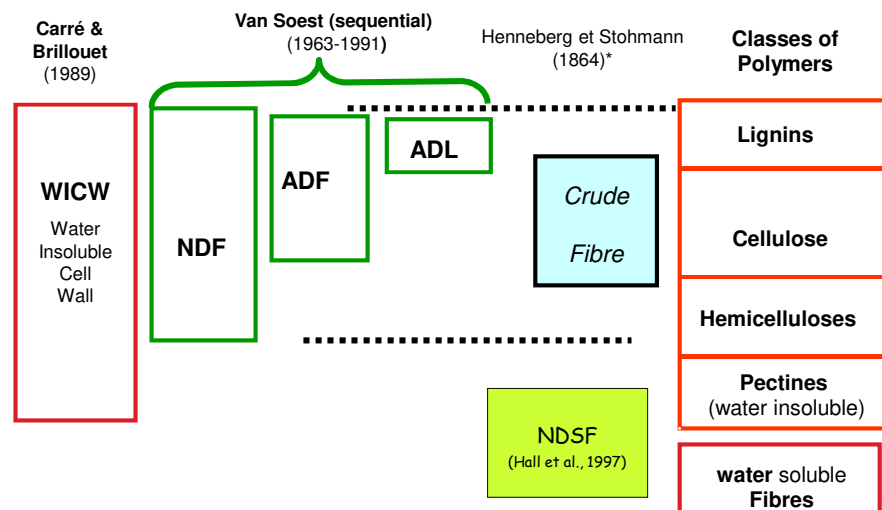




Simple CLASSIFICATION OF DIETARY FIBRES



MAIN GRAVIMETRIC METHODS FOR DETERMINATION OF DIETARY FIBRES IN ANIMAL FEEDS

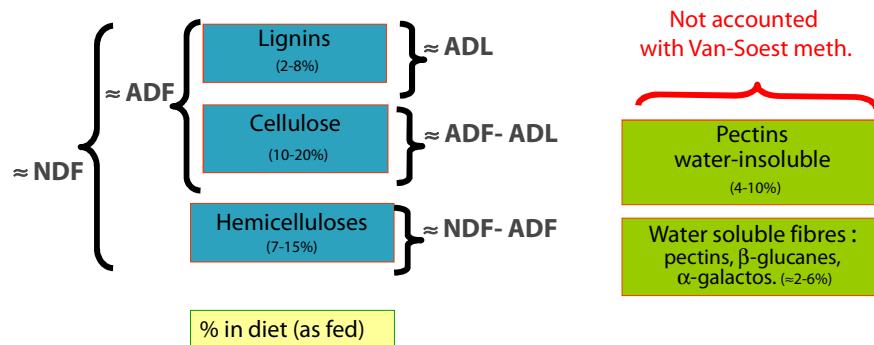


* Crude fibre: method from the Weende agronomy unit.

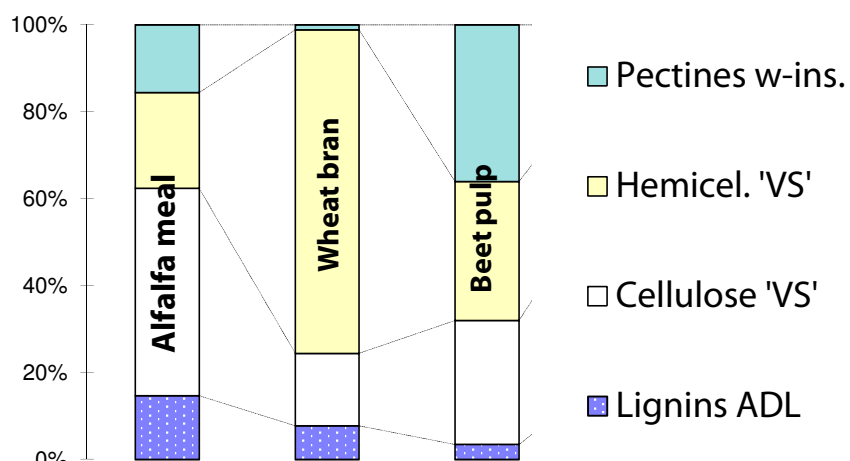
NDSF : sum of pectines (water-solubles & insolubles) + β -glucanes + fructanes + oligosaccharides [DP>15]

Importance of the different fibres fractions in diet for growing rabbit

Interest of "Van-Soest" criteria:
allow to assess the quality of fibre
"routine" method



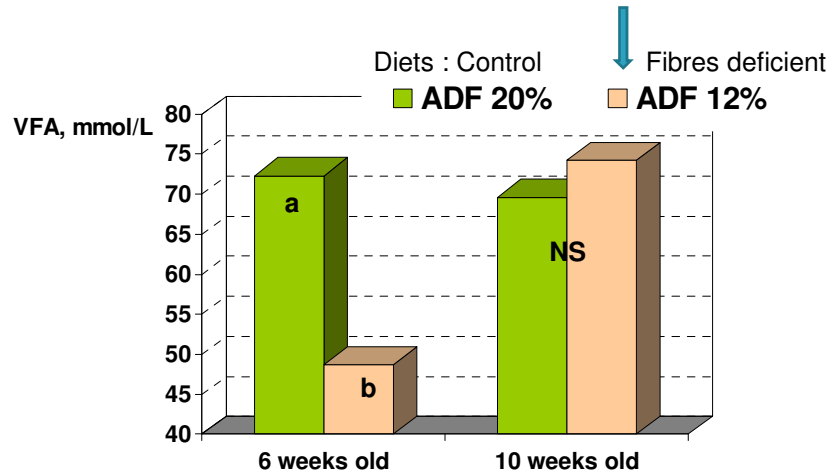
Fibres composition of some raw materials



3. Fibres : effects on rabbit digestion

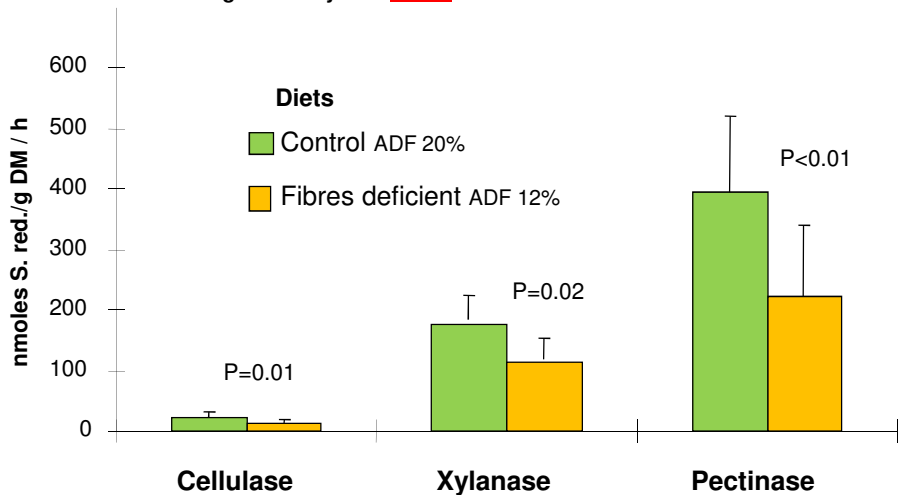
3.1 Microbial activity in the caecum

VFA concentrations : interaction Age and dietary fibre level



.013

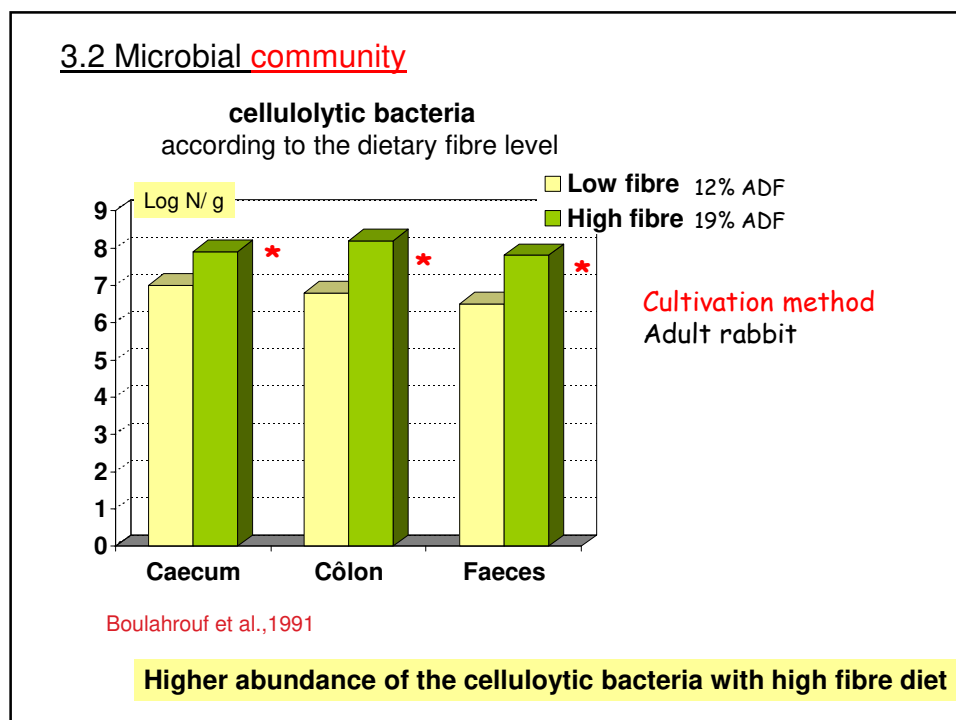
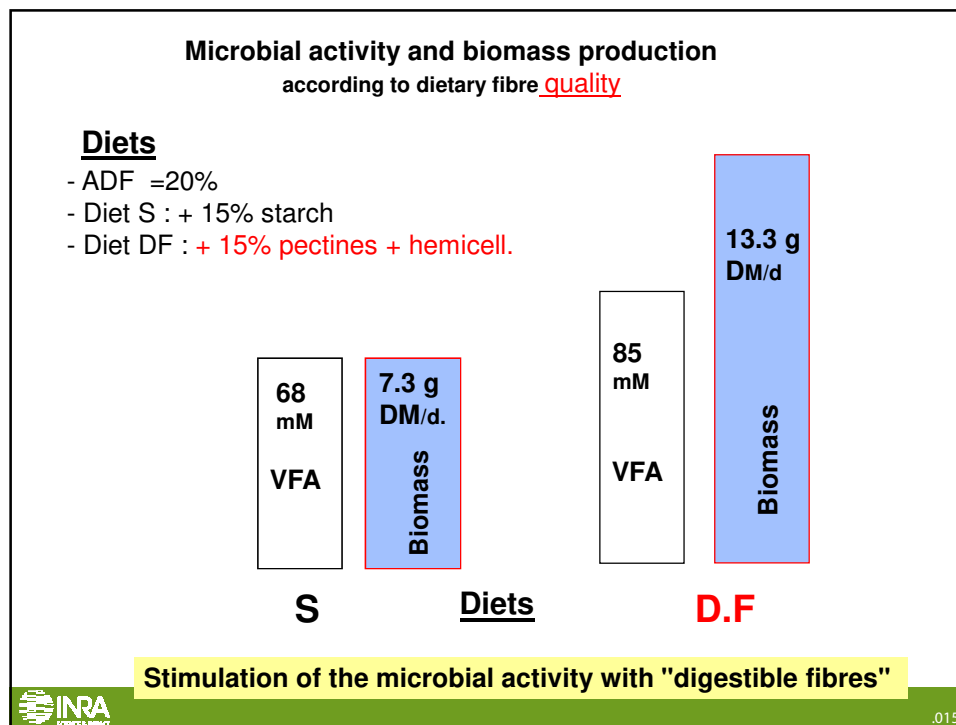
Fibrolytic activity of caecal bacteria according to dietary fibre level

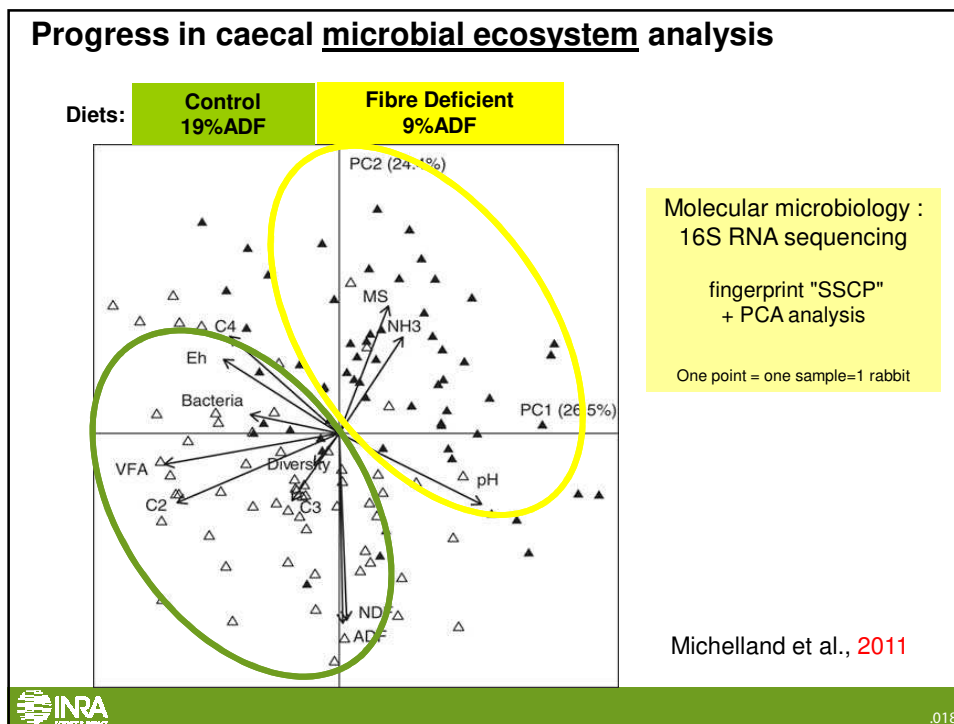
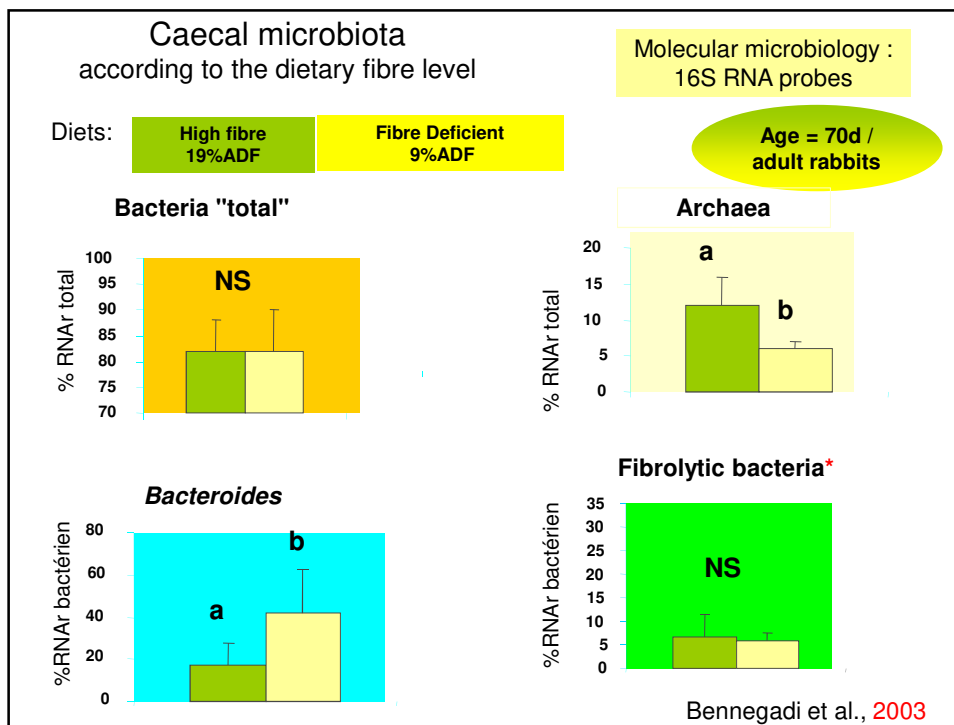


(Gidenne et al., 2000)



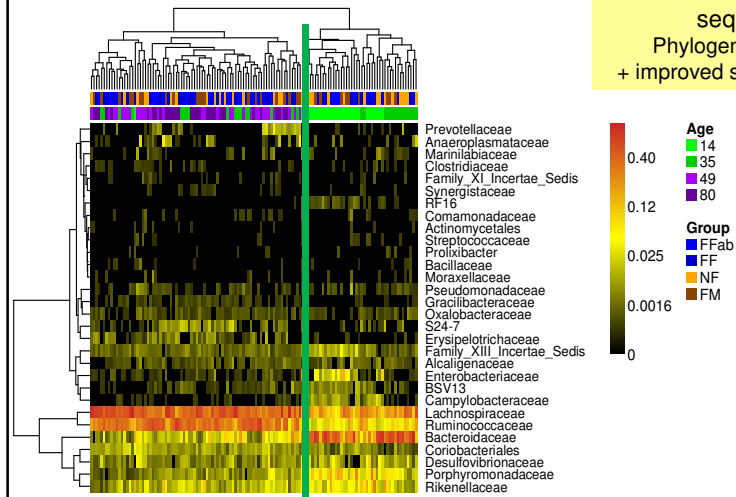
.014





Further progress in caecal microbiota characterisation

Molecular microbiology :
16S RNA high throughput
sequencing
Phylogenetic affiliation
+ improved statistical analysis



3.2 Effect of fibre on digestion

Class of dietary fibres		Mean, %	Range
Lignins (ADL)	poorly digestible fibres	-10 +15	-13 to +50
Cellulose (ADF – ADL)		15 - 18	5 to 40
Hemicelluloses (NDF – ADF)	digestible fibres	25 - 35	10 to 60
Pectins (total uronic acids)		70 - 76	30 to 85
Soluble fibre (TDF-NDF)	Rapidly fermentable fibres	70-90	??

Digestion of other nutrients

Starch	90 - 100%
Proteins	70 - 75
Lipids	70 - 80

Conclusion
fibres => reduction of diet digestibility

4. Fibres and digestive health of the growing rabbit

For a *pure nutritionist* , any **reduction** of fibre level will induce a **reduction** of nutritional costs

Thus: the **BEST** FIBRE LEVEL Should be THE LOWEST.... ?

BUT "breeders" and "pathologists" have observed :

low dietary fibres levels are associated with a **higher risk of digestive troubles** and mortality, after weaning

Thus, 2 questions :

- 1 - How to estimate the **sanitary risk** for digestive troubles ?
- 2 - Which **type of fibre** to **reduce the risk**, and at **which level** ?



.021

4.1 Question 1 : estimating the sanitary risk for digestive troubles, after weaning

Criteria to assess the sanitary status

Classical criterion = **Mortality**  **Yes/No criterion**



Mortality
weaning-slaughter
(30-70d old)

Example:

fibre deficiency and digestive health
(Bennegadi *et al.*, 2001)

(N= 80 rabbits)



.022

New criterion to refine the estimation
of the health status of a group of rabbits



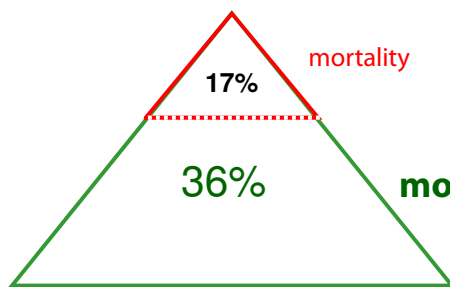
MORBIDITY =

- low growth (DWG +/- 2 S.D.), ponctual loss of weight
- transitory diarrhoea
- intake troubles

Importance of the frequency of the measure

e.g. : daily measure for Bennegadi et al. (2001).

Measure of the health status



+

morbidity

Example:
fibre deficiency and digestive
health
(Bennegadi et al., 2000)

Health risk
index, HRI

= 53%

IMPORTANT

necessary to measure those criteria on large groups of animal

10% mortality = ? 1 dead/10, **very different** from 100 deads/1000

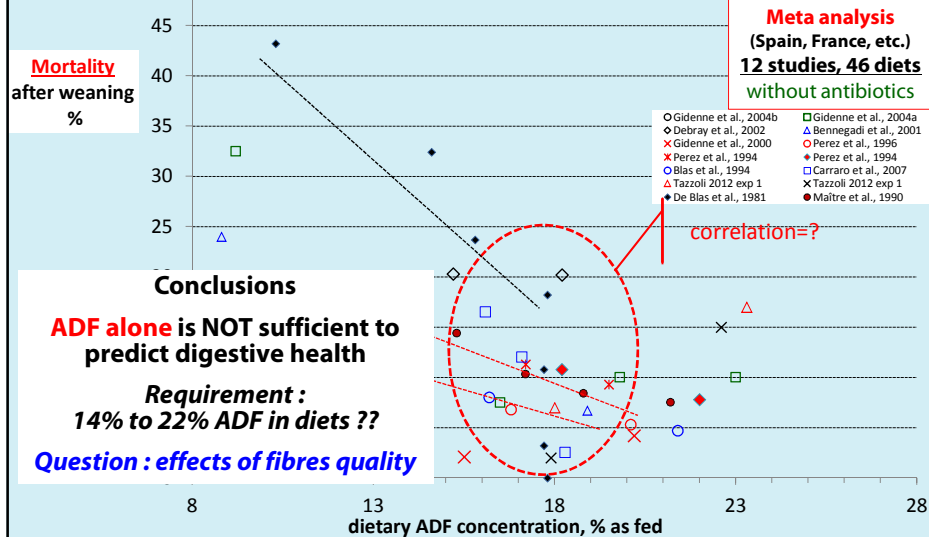
NEED : large experimental design,

e.g. network of experimental units (french network GEC: 6 units)

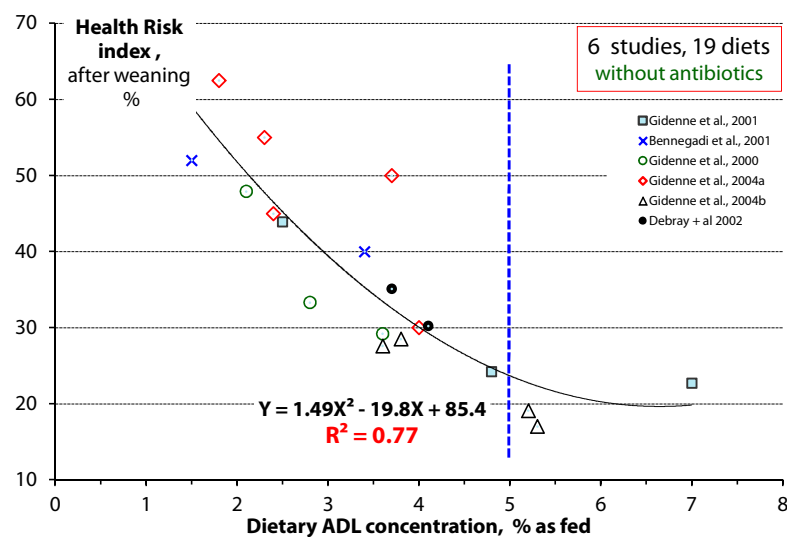
4.2 Fibres and digestive health of the growing rabbit

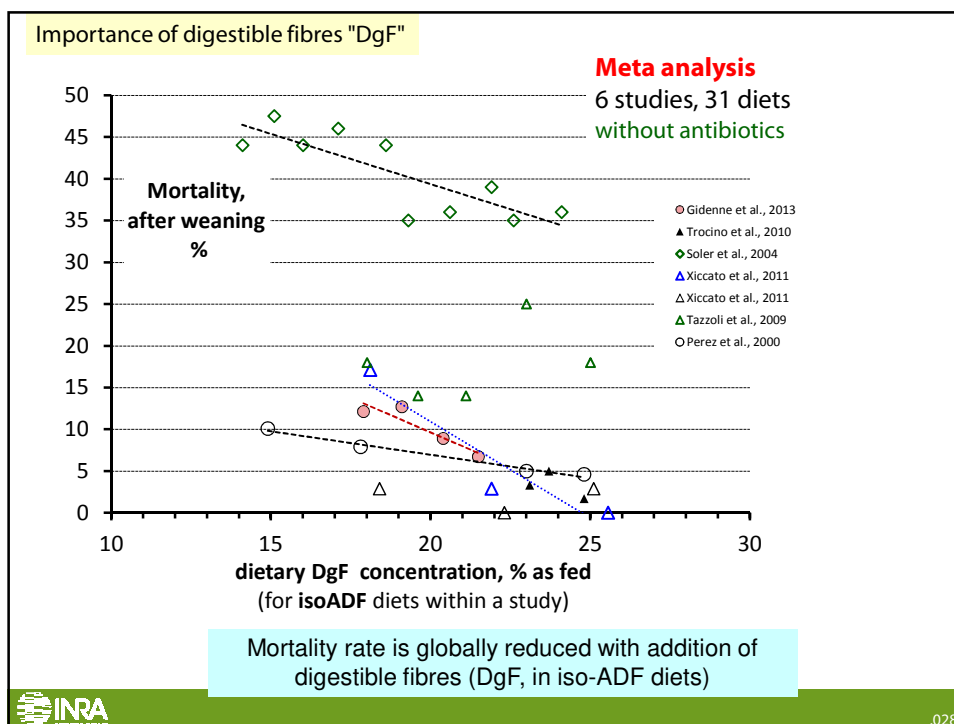
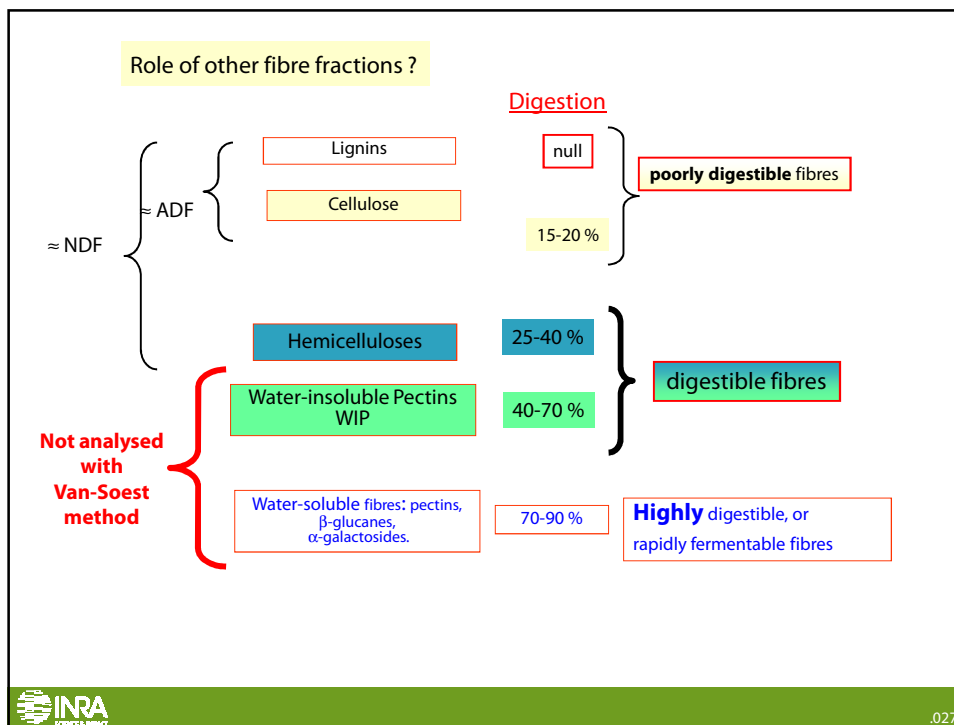
Question : only one fibre criterion for mortality prediction ?

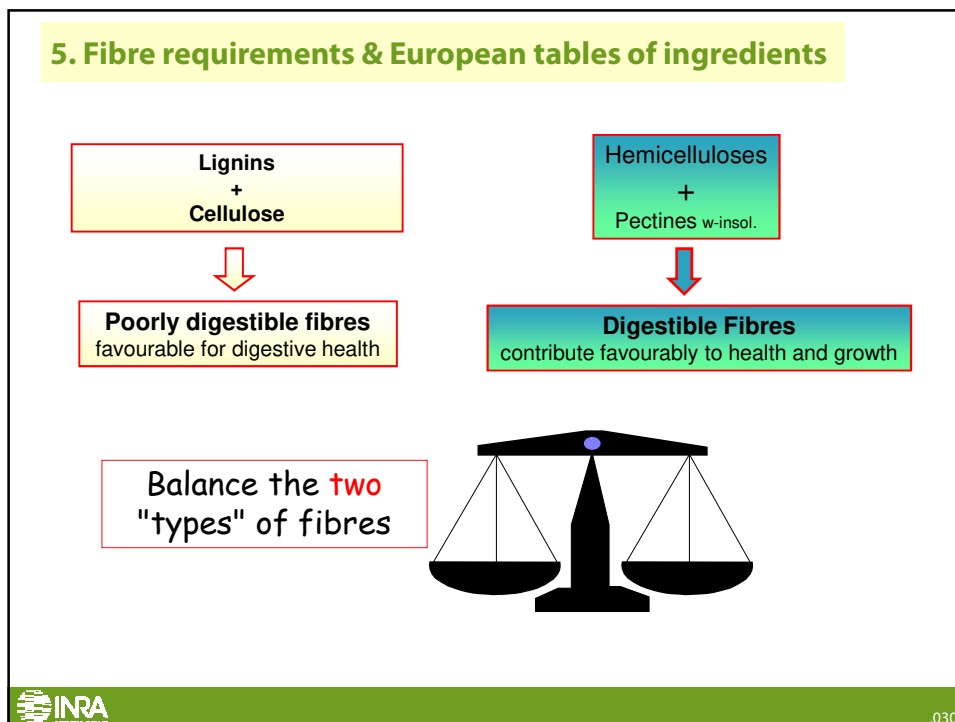
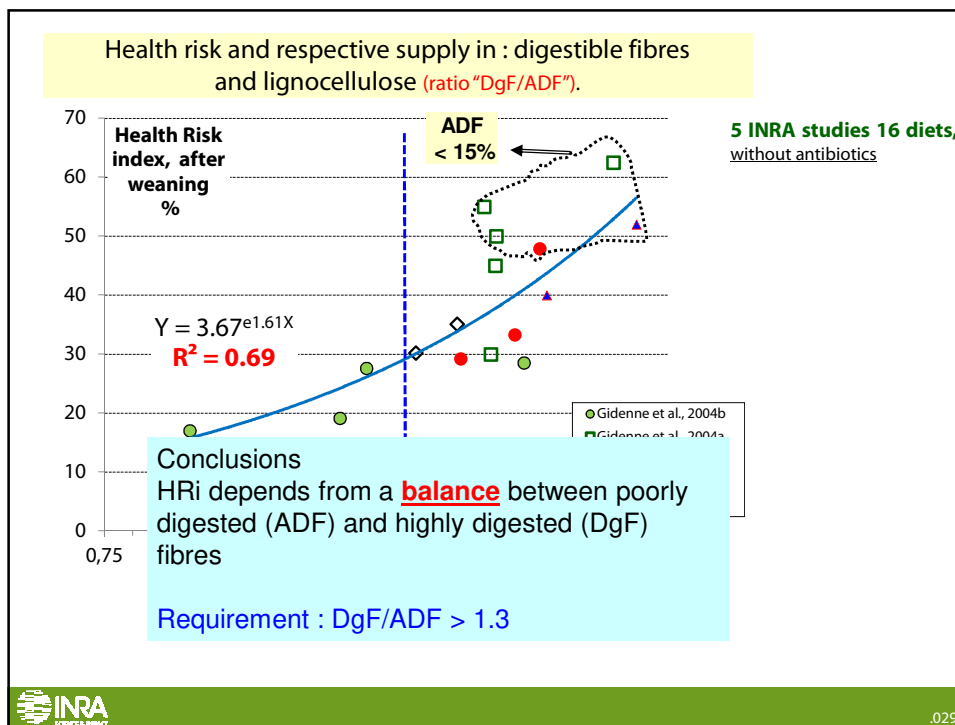
Poorly digested fibres "ADF" and mortality from digestive troubles = ?



Effects of lignins on rabbit digestive health ??







Fibres requirements to prevent digestive troubles
in the young and growing rabbit

3 key points

Unit :g/kg as fed *	Post weaning (28-42d old)	End of fattening (42-70d old)
Lignocellulose "ADF _{om} " *	≥190	≥170
Lignins "ADL" *	≥55	≥50
DgF/ADF _{om}	≤1.3	≤1.3
Cellulose "ADF-ADL" *	≥130	≥110
Ratio Lignins/ Cellulose	>0.40	>0.40
Hemicelluloses "NDF-ADF" *	>120	>100

European "EGRAN" feedstuffs tables (Maertens *et al.*, 2002)

Table 4 : Proximate fibre composition of some raw materials (90% DM) used in rabbit feeds, and with criteria used in fibre recommendations for the growing rabbit.

g/kg on as fed basis	NDF	ADF	ADL	WIP	UAI	DgF	CF	CP
Alfalfa meal 17	418	326	73	68	55	160	261	153
Wheat bran	428	128	35	30	14	330	102	158
Wheat straw	750	474	80	22	20	298	95	36
Sugarbeet pulp	428	212	78	250	190	466	80	90
Citrus pulp	220	155	16	120	80	185	33	59
Soyabean husks	588	426	21	92	60	254	55	122
Sunflower husks	693	562	202	100	75	231	68	54
Cocoa husk	390	300	140	30	20	120	83	164
Palm cake	520	317	90	30	10	233	150	185
Soyabean meal 48	104	65	5	55	24	94	50	468
<u>Whole seeds</u>								
Soya	117	73	8	60	25	104	56	369
Barley	175	55	9	6	3	126	46	108
Maize	100	25	5	7	5	82	19	92

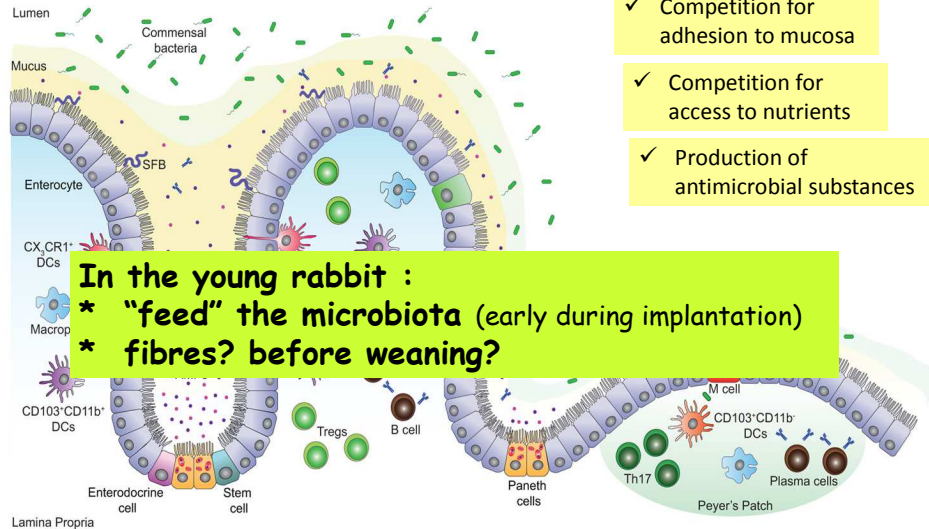
6. Perspectives

further understanding of fibre effects on health?

Fibre – microbiota – immunity in the young rabbit

Barrier role

- ✓ Competition for adhesion to mucosa
- ✓ Competition for access to nutrients
- ✓ Production of antimicrobial substances



In the young rabbit :

- * "feed" the microbiota (early during implantation)
- * fibres? before weaning?

GenPhySE
Génétique, Physiologie et Systèmes d'Élevage

Rabbit research team

+ 2 PhD students
Teyha READ
Héloïse LEGENDRE

+ technical staff

Corine Bayourthe
Agronomy highschool

Sylvie Combes

Laurence Lamothe

Corine Bayourthe
Agronomy highschool

Thierry Gidenne

Davi Savietto

Francis Enjalbert

Muriel Segura

Olivier Zemb

Annabelle Meynadier

Béatrice Gabinaud

Laurent Cauquil

Carole Bannelier

Thanks for your attention

Question 2 : how to differentiate the effect of fibres from that of starch?

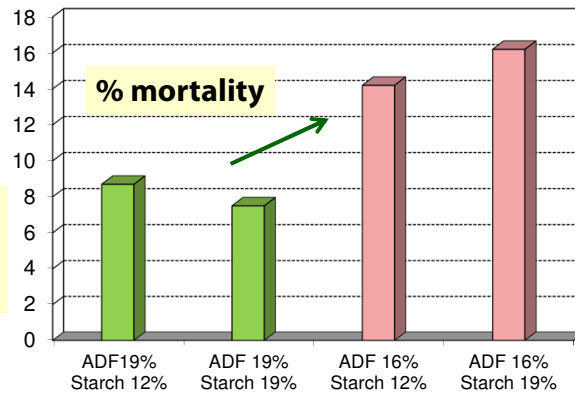
Answer 1:

factorial design **2 X 2** with: 2 **starch** (12 vs 19%) X 2 **ADF** (19 vs 16%) levels (4 diets)

Large scale study
n=507 rab./diet,
6 sites
weaning -slaughter

Effect of **ADF: 7 vs 15%**
P<0.05

Effect of **starch** = NS



Conclusions:

No effect of starch on mortality

ADF reduces the mortality



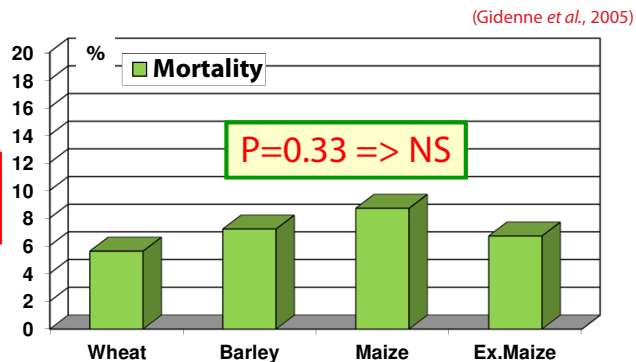
.035

Answer 2 :

isoADF diets but variations in **starch quality** : maize, wheat, barley, extruded maize

Diet with some
"risks" : ADF < 18%
and starch ≈ 20%

n=446 rab./diet
5 sites
period : weaning -slaughter



starch level at ileum (50d) % DM: 6^b 5^b 11^a 2^c

Conclusion : **NO** correlation among **ileal starch** and **mortality**,
NO starch overload



.036