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9 **Effects of Zn-L-selenomethionine on carcass composition, meat characteristics, fatty**
10 **acid composition, glutathione peroxidase activity, and ribonucleotide content in broiler**
11 **chickens**

13 **Abstract**

14 The effects of organic Zn-L-selenomethionine (Zn-L-SeMet) at 0.3 ppm on carcass
15 composition, meat characteristics, fatty acid composition, glutathione peroxidase activity, and
16 ribonucleotide content were compared against the commercial inorganic sodium selenite (Na-
17 Se) and the combination of the two, in commercial broilers. A total of 540 one day old chicks
18 were assigned at random to 3 dietary treatments : i) commercial inorganic selenium as control
19 or T1, ii) a 1:1 ratio of inorganic and organic selenium as T2, and iii) organic selenium as T3.
20 Carcass composition, meat characteristics, cholesterol content, fatty acid composition, and
21 ribonucleotide content were generally unaffected by treatments. However, discrepancy were
22 significantly observed in glutathione peroxidase activity (GSH-Px) and water holding
23 capacity, with organic selenium showing higher glutathione peroxidase activity ($p < 0.01$) and
24 lower shrinkage loss ($p < 0.05$), respectively. These findings could be explained by the
25 contribution of organic selenium in bioavailability of GSH-Px. However, having conducted in
26 a commercial close house system with sufficient amount of nutritional supplementation, the
27 present study demonstrated little or no effects of organic Zn-L-SeMet on meat characteristics,
28 fatty acid composition, and ribonucleotide content (flavor characteristic) in broiler chickens.

29
30 **Keywords** : selenium source, body composition, meat quality traits, cholesterol content,
31 flavor

34 **Introduction**

35 A good nutritionally balanced diet that will provide appropriate bioavailable quantities of
36 nutrients required by the birds is the main goal of modern feed formulation. Energy and
37 protein are principle nutrient component in the formulation. In addition, supplements provide
38 minerals, vitamins and specific amino acids must be added to the diets as they are essential
39 for growth performance and health (Ravindran, 2013). Selenium is a vital element for
40 maintaining balance and healthy diet for chickens. They can either be found naturally or been
41 added in both inorganic and organic forms. The bioavailability of selenium in chicken is
42 complexed, whereby, the metabolism is affected by numerous factors and these include types
43 of selenium, heavy metals, vitamins, methionine, and thiols (Fairweather-Tait and Hurrell,
44 2007). The physiological and biochemical factors of the birds itself may also contribute to the
45 requirement of the bioavailability such as in heat and stress conditions.

46 An adequate intake of selenium helps maintaining healthy broiler, immunocompetent,
47 better meat quality, and longer shelf life as it is involved in the antioxidative system which is
48 a part of selenium-dependent Glutathione peroxidase (Colnago et al., 1984; Combs Jr, 1981;
49 Kuricova et al., 2003; Ryu et al., 2005; Yang et al., 2012; Yoon et al., 2007; Zelenka and
50 Fajmonova, 2005). Selenium is involved in lipid metabolism of which, several studies
51 reported that selenium, when supplemented in animal diets, remodeled the composition of
52 fatty acid in meat (Netto et al., 2014; Zanini et al., 2004). The ribonucleotide monophosphates
53 like inosine monophosphate (IMP) and guanosine monophosphate (GMP) enhance the
54 intensity of meat flavor, as they elicit an umami taste (Durnford and Shahidi, 1998; Spurvey
55 et al., 1998). Selenium has also been associated with meat flavor as Zhou and Wang (2011)
56 documented higher IMP content in chickens treated with Nano-Se when compared to control
57 group.

58 Inorganic sodium selenite (Na-Se) has been traditionally supplemented in commercial

59 poultry diets to ensure an optimal supply for growth performance and productivity. Organic
60 sources of selenium, for example Se-enriched yeast and synthesized L-selenomethionine (L-
61 SeMet), are reported to be more suitable forms of selenium for dietary supplements according
62 to their lower toxicity and higher bioavailability than inorganic form. (Delezie et al., 2014;
63 Surai, 2007). L-SeMet is the major form of organic selenium presented in natural food and
64 feed ingredients. Selenium enriched yeast has been commercially used as a practical
65 affordable source of L-SeMet. However, the concentration of organically bound selenium in
66 yeast can vary markedly among sources of Se-enriched yeast due to its ability to form L-
67 SeMet from the selenite enriched media (Geraert et al., 2015; Whanger, 2002). Broilers
68 supplemented with dietary L-SeMet had better efficiency of selenium deposition of in breast
69 muscle than Se-enriched yeast but L-SeMet appeared to be unstable when mixed with a
70 standard premix (Geraert et al., 2015). More recently, organic selenium is available as Zn-
71 L-selenomethionine (Zn-L-SeMet), which is 1:1 complex of essential metals and amino acids.
72 Zn-L-SeMet has been designed to be highly soluble and of increased bioavailability of
73 selenium (Ward, 2003). It is hypothesized that a more stable source of organic selenium as
74 described by the producer, Zn-L-SeMet, has possible benefits from Se-enriched diets for
75 animal production. The information on the utilization of Zn-L-SeMet in broiler chickens is
76 limited. Therefore, this study aimed to examine the impacts of this organic selenium form
77 (Zn-L-SeMet) against inorganic Na-Se and also their combination on carcass composition,
78 meat characteristics, fatty acid composition, flavor associated ribonucleotides, and glutathione
79 peroxidase activities in commercial broilers raised in a commercial closed house system.

80

81 **Materials and Methods**

82 **Animal ethics**

83 The handling and care of experimental animals in the research were approved by the

84 institutional Animal Care and Use Committee at King Mongkut's Institute of Technology
85 Ladkrabang.

86 **Animals**

87 Five hundred and forty one day old chicks (Arbor Acre) were assigned at random to 3
88 dietary groups of 6 replicates, with 30 chicks per pen. The stocking density per pen was of 15
89 mixed-sex broilers/m² (measuring 2 m²/pen). The birds received feed ad libitum through 3
90 phase feeding programs with continuous 24 h lighting (see Table 1). The treatment groups
91 comprised of: i) T1: inorganic sodium selenite (Na-Se) at 0.3 ppm; ii) T2: mixed organic and
92 inorganic selenium, with combination of 0.15 ppm Na-Se + 0.15 ppm Zn-L-SeMet, and, iii)
93 T3: organic selenium from Zn-L-SeMet at 0.3 ppm. The chicken were fasted for 12 h and
94 weighed out before slaughter at 39 days old. Three birds per replicate in each group were
95 sacrificed by cervical dislocation, scalded at 60°C for approximately 3 min, following with
96 defeathered for 2 minutes using a rotary drum picker, and eviscerated manually. Then the
97 carcasses were chilled in ice water for 45 min and weighed after waiting for 1 h at 1°C in a
98 cold room aimed to strain water remains from the chilling process. The whole carcass was cut
99 up into the form of breast, fillet, wing, and leg manually by knife. The weight of all dissected
100 parts were documented in percentages to total carcass weight. The right side breast muscles
101 from each carcass were used for quality traits analysis. Meanwhile, the breast muscle from
102 left side carcass was taken from one chicken per each replicate for fatty acid composition,
103 GSH-Px activity, and ribonucleotide content analysis.

104 **Experimental Diets**

105 The experimental diets were formulated to meet nutrient requirement for broiler chicken
106 recommended by the National Research Council (Table 1). The organic and inorganic
107 selenium used for this experiment were incorporated into the diet as presented in Table 1.
108 Infectious Bronchitis and Newcastle Diseases vaccinations to broilers were performed as

109 stated in the manufacturer's instructions (Nobilis® MA5+Clone 30, Intervet International
110 B.V. Boxmeer, Holland).

111 **Meat Characteristics**

112 **pH measurement**

113 Muscle pH of the right pectoralis major was inspected at 45 min, 24 h, and 4 d postmortem
114 using a spear tip glass probe connected to a portable pH meter (SG2 - ELK Seven Go™,
115 Mettler Toledo International Inc., China).

116 **Drip loss measurement**

117 Meat samples were suspended in tightly sealed plastic bag filled with air and kept at 4 to
118 6°C for 48 h (Honikel, 1998). Drip loss was calculated as a percentage of the weight loss
119 after suspension.

120 **Color measurement**

121 Following to 30 minutes of blooming period, meat color (CIE L*a*b*) of pectoralis major
122 was determined at 3 h postmortem at 25±2°C using a handheld colorimeter (CR-400
123 chromameter, Konica Minolta Sensing Co., Ltd., Japan).

124 **Water loss and shear force measurement**

125 After taken from carcass, the breast muscles were weighed and kept for 4 d at 4°C and then
126 brought to 25°C before weighing and calculating sample weight difference. The measurement
127 were conducted before and after storage as a percentage of shrinkage loss. The 1 inch thick
128 sample from each bird was cooked for approximately 20 min to 70°C temperature internally
129 in a water bath (One14, Memmert, Germany). Core temperature of the end point was
130 monitored by a thermometer (TM-19475D, Lutron Electronics Inc, Taiwan). Cooked samples
131 were left at room temperature to cool down before weighing. Weight loss after cooking was
132 calculated and expressed as the percentage loss relative to the weight before cooking. Ten
133 slices were cut parallel to the fiber orientation of the cooked sample. A Texture Analyser

134 Machine (Model EZ-SX, Shimadzu, Japan) attached to a 50 kg load cell using 50 mm/min
135 crosshead speed was used to measure a Warner-Bratzler shear force. Signals were processed
136 by Tapezium software (Shimadzu, Japan).

137 **Fatty acid analysis**

138 Fatty acid composition was determined according to the method of Raes et al. (2016). The
139 lipid extraction with chloroform were performed as described by Folch (1957). The internal
140 standard, methyl nonadecanoate (SFA-013N, Accu Standard, New Haven CT06513, USA)
141 was added during extraction process. The gas chromatography (7890B Agilent, USA) with a
142 fused silica capillary column (model SPTM-2560, Supelco, Bellefonte, PA) for FAME (100 m
143 × 0.25 mm x 0.2 µm film thickness) was used to analyse fatty acid methyl esters (FAME).
144 Following was the gas chromatography conditions: injected temperature, 240°C; detector
145 temperature, 260°C; carrier gas, He; split ratio, 10:1; temperature program, initial temperature
146 60°C, followed by an increase of 20°C/min to 170°C, 5°C/min to 220°C then 2°C/min to
147 240°C. The peaks of fatty acid methylester were identified by comparison of retention times
148 with authentic standards (F.A.M.E. Mix, C4-C24, Supelco, Bellefonte, PA) and quantified by
149 an internal standard of nonadecanoic acid (C19 : 0).

150 **Cholesterol analysis**

151 Cholesterol measurement was performed using the method outlined by Du and Ahn (2002).
152 The frozen samples (after immersion in liquid nitrogen) were pulverized using grinder
153 (WSG30E, Waring, USA). Ground breast meat of 0.4 g was extracted with 10 mL of
154 saponification reagent (ethanol: 33% KOH (w/v): 20 % ascorbic acid (94: 6: 0.5)). A 50 µL of
155 5 α-cholestane solution (1 µg/µL in hexane) was subsequently added as an internal standard.
156 The mixture were homogenized using a homogenizer (T25 Ultra-Turrax® , Ika, Malaysia)
157 before adding 10 mL of HPLC water and 10 mL of hexane, consecutively. The homogenate
158 samples were then briefly vortexed (Vortex Genie 2 Mixer, Overstock Lab Equipment, USA),

159 left for 15 h to allow sample to separate into phase, then centrifuged at 1,000 x g at 4°C for 15
160 min. The hexane layer containing unsaponifiables was carefully collected and evaporated by
161 nitrogen blowdown. The dry sample was dissolved in 200 µl ethyl acetate and later analyzed
162 using gas chromatography (7890B Agilent, USA).

163 **Glutathione peroxidase activity assay**

164 One gram of breast muscle samples, pulverized in liquid nitrogen, were homogenized in 2
165 mL of ice-cold glutathione peroxidase activity (GSH-Px) buffer using a homogenizer (T25
166 Ultra-Turrax®, Ika, Malaysia) at 23,319 x g then centrifuged at 10,000 x g for 15 min at 4°C.
167 The supernatant was collected and kept at -20 °C for GSH-Px assays the next day.
168 Glutathione peroxidase activity was measured according to the manufacturer protocols
169 (Glutathione Peroxidase Colorimetric Assay Kit, Catalog Number #K762-100, Biovision,
170 USA).

171 **Ribonucleotide analysis**

172 According to the method of Tikk et al (2006), one gram of pulverized breast muscle in 6
173 mL of cold 0.6 M perchloric acid was homogenized at 23,319 x g for 10 sec (T25 Ultra-
174 Turrax®, Ika, Malaysia). The homogenate was left on ice for 15 min and then neutralized by
175 adding 5.4 mL of 0.8 M KOH and 0.25 mL of KH₂PO₄ buffer. The pH of mixed sample was
176 adjusted to 7 with 0.8 M KOH and the volume was finally made up to 15 mL with HPLC
177 water. After centrifugation at 10,000 x g for 10 min at 4°C (Scanspeed 1580R, Labogene,
178 Denmark), 1 mL of supernatant was aspirated to a small tube and frozen at -80°C.

179 After thawing the frozen sample and centrifuging at 10,000 x g for 5 min at 4°C
180 (Scanspeed 1580R, Labogene, Denmark), the supernatants were then analyzed for IMP,
181 inosine, hypoxanthine, and GMP using the HPLC (Chromaster, Hitachi, Japan) fitted with a
182 UV detector (210 nm). A stationary phase was the TSK Gel Amide-80 column (Tosoh, Japan)
183 while the eluent phase consisted of a buffer containing acetonitrile : KH₂PO₄, 70: 30. The

184 content of ribonucleotide was quantified based on a standard curve using external standards
185 (57510 Inosine-5-monophosphate disodium salt hydrate, 14125 Inosine, H9377
186 Hypoxanthine, and G8377 Guanosine-5-monophosphate disodium salt hydrate, Sigma-
187 Aldrich, USA).

188 **Statistical Analysis**

189 Analyses of variance was analyzed using the GLM procedure (SAS Institute. Inc., Cary, NC)
190 where selenium sources were defined as treatment. Least square means were separated using
191 the PDIFF option and differences were considered as significant if $p \leq 0.05$.

192

193 **Results and Discussion**

194 The live, and carcass weight, and the body and carcass composition of chickens from
195 different dietary treatments are as shown in Table 2. The aforementioned parameters between
196 the treatments showed no significant differences. In agreement with our finding, the
197 supplementation of neither organic nor inorganic selenium have significant effect on live
198 weight, carcass weight, and carcass composition in broilers by other researchers (Downs et
199 al., 2000 ; Payne and Southern, 2005 ; Mikulski et al., 2009). Furthermore, no significant
200 differences were occurred in samples of birds subjected to the combination of organic and
201 inorganic supplement at 0.3 ppm. In this study, sources of selenium did not affect ($p>0.05$)
202 drip loss but significantly impacted on shrinkage loss between T1 and T3 ($p<0.05$), and
203 cooking loss among T1, T2, and T3 ($p<0.0001$) at day 4 postmortem (Table 3). The lowest
204 shrinkage was found in samples of organic selenium supplemented birds (T3). Meanwhile, the
205 highest and lowest cooking loss after day 4 postmortem was observed in samples of T3 and
206 T1, respectively (Table 3). The lower shrinkage loss noted in the T3 meat samples could be
207 explained by a possible increase in antioxidant property as indicated by higher GSH-Px
208 activity ($p = 0.009$; Table 5) recorded in samples of birds subjected to the organic selenium

209 supplementation (T3). This was explained by Zhan et al. (2007) who demonstrated higher
210 meat water holding capacity in animals treated with SeMet than their counterparts which were
211 assigned to inorganic Na-Se supplementation. Furthermore, Surai (2007) reported that
212 selenium was crucial for both intra- and extra-cellular antioxidant system in the body. In
213 present study, T3 showed higher cooking loss when compared to both T1 and T2. This could
214 possibly be explained by higher water content in the samples upon cooking as resulted from
215 lower shrinkage loss in the respective samples. Different mechanisms have been proposed by
216 researchers on how antioxidant could influence drip loss and water holding capacity. These
217 include the stabilization of membrane postmortem (Asghar et al., 1991), reducing proteolysis
218 and protein oxidation which in turn influence moisture retention capacity in meat and meat
219 products (Huff-Lonergan and Lonergan, 2005). Selenium sources did not affect meat color in
220 this study. This conforms to the finding of Jiang et al. (2009) and Perić et al. (2009). Dietary
221 selenium sources were also not significant effect on pH value at various storage times from 45
222 min to 4 days of postmortem in the current study ($p>0.05$) (Table 3). In contrast with our
223 results, Li et al. (2018) presented that organic selenium-enriched yeast and selenomethionine
224 supplementation resulted in increasing breast pH of broiler chickens at 45 min postmortem
225 with no affect at 24 h postmortem. In the present study, shear force values were unaffected by
226 the inorganic, organic, and the combination supplementation. However, Li et al. (2018)
227 reported the lower shear force value of breast meat from chickens supplemented with organic
228 selenium-enriched yeast and selenomethionine supplementation than those supplemented with
229 inorganic sodium selenite. The improvement of the tenderness as the reduction in shear force
230 value could be related to the higher intramuscular fat in chickens fed with organic selenium
231 (Yoon et al., 2007).

232 In this study, source of dietary selenium did not affect levels of cholesterol content and
233 fatty acid composition in chicken breast. There were no previous studies that reported the

234 association between selenium sources and cholesterol content in broiler meat. According to
235 our findings, the amount of unsaturated fatty acid was not significantly different among
236 treatments, this may suggested that the internal oxidation against unsaturated fatty acid may
237 not occur or in control. Although the content and composition of individual saturated fatty
238 acid (SFA) and polyunsaturated fatty acid (PUFA) were similar, the total amount of SFA and
239 PUFA in T2 broiler meat were less than in T1 and T3 resulting in the lower PUFA: SFA ratio
240 (Table 4). Netto et al. (2014) and Zanini et al. (2004) stated that selenium involved in lipid
241 metabolism by remodeling the fatty acid composition. In agreement with Puerto et al. (2017),
242 the most finding saturated fatty acids (SFA) in this study was palmitic acid (C16:0) while it
243 was oleic acid (C18:1n9c) for monounsaturated fatty acids (MUFA).

244 In this study, sources of selenium supplemented in the diets affected GSH-Px activity
245 (Table 5) and this was exhibited by higher GSH-Px activity ($p < 0.01$) in the breast meat
246 obtained from birds fed diets containing 0.3 ppm Zn-L-SeMet (T3-organic selenium) than
247 those of birds fed with 0.3 ppm Na-Se (T1-inorganic selenium). The finding of increasing
248 tissue antioxidant enzyme GSH-Px by organic selenium in this study were consistent with
249 Zhang et al (2014). This may be due to organic source of dietary selenium has a higher
250 bioavailability and thus enhances the selenium retention, leading to the increasing of GSH-Px
251 levels (Mahan et al., 1996 ; Surai, 2007 ; Zhang et al., 2014). In addition, Dalia et al (2017)
252 stated that bacterial organic selenium can be considered as an effective source of selenium in
253 broiler chickens as it improved selenium deposition in tissue, antioxidant status, and
254 glutathione peroxidase gene expression compared to those supplemented with inorganic
255 selenium. In accordance with Slavik et al. (2008) who found higher level of GSH-Px activity
256 in beef cows fed with organic selenium (Se-enriched yeast) than those fed with inorganic
257 selenium (sodium selenite). Whereas, Heindl et al. (2010) reported that the source of selenium
258 did not affect GSH-Px activity in broiler chickens. However, the combination of 0.15 ppm

259 Na-Se + 0.15 ppm Zn-L-SeMet (T2) did not result in any difference in GSH-Px activity when
260 compared to T1 and T3. The ribonucleotides, mainly IMP and GMP contribute to meat flavor
261 perception, as they hold umami taste characteristics (Dunford and Shahidi, 1998). Selenium
262 might be involved in meat flavor as Zhou and Wang (2011) reported a higher IMP content in
263 chickens fed with Nano-Se as compared with the control group. Nevertheless, in this study,
264 there were no differences ($p>0.05$) in flavor related ribonucleotides (IMP, GMP, inosine,
265 hypoxanthine) among the meat samples of birds supplemented with different sources of
266 selenium (Table 5).

267

268 **Conclusions**

269 In general, the supplementation of selenium in any forms at 0.3 ppm (either as organic,
270 combination of organic and inorganic, or inorganic) has no impact on carcass and fatty acid
271 composition, other meat quality traits (drip loss, color, pH, and shear force), and
272 ribonucleotide content of breast muscle in broiler chickens raised in a commercial closed
273 house system. However, organic selenium improved GSH-Px activity and increase moisture
274 retention capacity in meat as shown by lower shrinkage loss. Therefore, organic selenium
275 could be considered as an effective source of selenium in broiler chicken diet especially in
276 terms of biochemical benefits.

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389 **Table 1.** Formula of basal diets

Item	Starter (0-21 d)	Grower (22-30 d)	Finisher (31-37 d)
Ingredients			
Broken rice	28.60	34.96	38.85
Corn	30.00	30.00	30.00
Soybean meal	29.50	21.93	18.24
Fish meal	6.00	8.00	8.00
Vegetable oil	1.64	0.84	1.11
Monocalcium phosphate	1.35	1.24	1.00
Limestone	0.77	0.90	0.79
Premix ^{1,2}	0.60	0.60	0.60
Salt	0.42	0.39	0.39
Lysine	0.39	0.41	0.40
DL methionine	0.29	0.26	0.25
L threonine	0.19	0.18	0.14
Choline chloride	0.14	0.14	0.14
Antifungal	-	0.10	0.10
Monensin sodium ³	0.05	0.05	-
Nutrient and energy level (calculated)			
Xanthophyl (ppm)	11.70	11.70	11.70
ME (kcal/kg)	3100	3100	3150
Protein (%)	21.50	19.00	17.50
Ash (%)	4.38	4.06	3.58
Fat (%)	4.29	3.79	4.02
Fiber (%)	2.37	2.21	2.08
Calcium (%)	0.90	0.90	0.80
Total phosphorus (%)	0.72	0.67	0.60
Available phosphorus (%)	0.48	0.45	0.40
Salt (%)	0.44	0.42	0.42
Lysine (%)	1.28	1.15	1.06
Methionine (%)	0.52	0.47	0.45
Methionine + Cysteine (%)	0.91	0.83	0.79
Threonine (%)	0.96	0.86	0.79
Tryptophan (%)	0.22	0.19	0.25
Sodium (%)	0.20	0.19	0.19

390 ¹ Vitamin-mineral mixture provides the following (per kg of diet): 25,000 IU of vitamin A;
391 5,000 IU of vitamin D₃; 100 mg of vitamin E; 6 mg of vitamin K₃; 4 mg of vitamin B₁; 10 mg
392 of vitamin B₂; 30 mg of vitamin B₃; 6 mg of vitamin B₆; 60 mg of nicotinamide; 2 mg of folic
393 acid; 0.06 mg of vitamin B₁₂; 0.2 mg of biotin; 1,000 mg of choline chloride; 2 mg of Co, 4
394 mg of I, 120 mg of Mn, 40 mg of Fe, and 100 mg of Zn

395 ² The T1, T2, and T3 treatment diet contained 0.3 ppm Na-Se, 0.15 ppm Na-Se + 0.15 ppm
396 Zn-L-SeMet, or 0.3 ppm Zn-L-SeMet.

397 ³ Coccidiostat (Maxiban[®] for starter, Cygro[®] 1% for grower)

398 **Table 2.** Effects of dietary selenium sources¹ on body and carcass composition in commercial
 399 broiler chickens

Traits	T1	T2	T3	RMSE	<i>P</i> -value
Live weight (kg)	2.58	2.61	2.66	0.09	0.092
Carcass weight (kg)	2.08	2.09	2.92	0.07	0.251
Body composition (% of live weight)					
Carcass dressing	80.53	80.13	79.92	1.85	0.603
Abdominal fat	1.01	0.97	0.95	0.34	0.868
Liver	2.16	2.29	2.31	0.34	0.378
Gizzard	1.01	1.04	0.99	0.16	0.659
Heart	0.34	0.33	0.35	0.09	0.826
Spleen	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.02	0.579
Head	1.86	1.84	1.91	0.68	0.925
Neck	3.36	3.44	3.36	0.68	0.925
Carcass composition (% of carcass weight)					
Breast	26.41	26.83	26.48	1.93	0.783
Fillet	4.97	4.87	4.64	0.72	0.375
Wing	10.85	10.18	10.13	1.63	0.343
Leg	27.57	27.88	28.43	1.23	0.120

400 ^{a-b} LSMeans in the same row with different letters are significantly different ($p < 0.05$).
 401 ¹ The T1, T2, and T3 treatment groups were fed diets containing 0.3 ppm Na-Se, 0.15 ppm
 402 Na-Se + 0.15 ppm Zn-L-SeMet, and 0.3 ppm Zn-L-SeMet, respectively.
 403

404 **Table 3.** Effects of dietary selenium sources¹ on meat quality traits of *Pectoralis major* m.
 405 broiler in commercial broiler chickens

Traits	T1	T2	T3	RMSE	P-value
Drip loss (%)	2.40	2.57	2.52	0.88	0.866
Shrinkage loss (%)	2.60 ^a	2.15 ^{ab}	1.80 ^b	0.70	0.012
Cooking loss (%)	10.36 ^c	12.23 ^b	13.52 ^a	1.66	<0.0001
L*	50.98	49.51	50.00	.349	.0444
a*	2.12	1.80	2.13	0.74	0.321
b*	6.42	6.19	6.26	1.25	0.852
pH 45 min (unit)	6.55	6.6	6.54	0.34	0.838
pH 24 h (unit)	6.04	6.05	5.97	0.23	0.546
pH 4 d (unit)	5.93	5.96	5.97	0.12	0.615
Shear force (kg)	2.26	2.34	2.32	0.33	0.764

406 ^{a-c} LSM means in the same row with different letters are significantly different (p<0.05).

407 ¹ The T1, T2, and T3 treatment groups were fed diets containing 0.3 ppm Na-Se, 0.15 ppm
 408 Na-Se + 0.15 ppm Zn-L-SeMet, and 0.3 ppm Zn-L-SeMet, respectively.
 409

410 **Table 4.** Effects of dietary selenium sources¹ on cholesterol content and fatty acid composition of
 411 *Pectoralis major* m. in commercial broiler chickens

Traits ²	T1	T2	T3	RMSE	P-value
Cholesterol	1.12	1.16	1.16	0.18	0.901
C14:0	0.10	0.09	0.11	0.05	0.881
C15:0	0.19	0.19	0.18	0.03	0.823
C16:0	5.01	4.27	5.18	1.76	0.642
C16:1	1.20	0.94	1.28	0.44	0.407
C18:0	1.21	1.19	1.29	0.40	0.905
C18:1n9c	6.28	5.88	7.59	2.70	0.534
C18:2n6c	4.89	3.77	4.79	1.61	0.433
C18:3n3	0.24	0.17	0.23	0.08	0.420
C23:0	0.54	0.47	0.48	0.11	0.507
SFA	7.05	6.21	7.23	2.26	0.712
MUFA	7.49	6.82	8.87	3.10	0.522
PUFA	5.12	3.94	5.02	1.69	0.433
n-6/n-3	21.02	21.52	20.82	0.93	0.421
PUFA: SFA	0.72 ^a	0.64 ^b	0.70 ^a	0.04	0.014

412 ^{a-b} LSMeans in the same row with different letters are significantly different (p<0.05).

413 ¹ The T1, T2, and T3 treatment groups were fed diets containing 0.3 ppm Na-Se, 0.15 ppm
 414 Na-Se + 0.15 ppm Zn-L-SeMet, and 0.3 ppm Zn-L-SeMet, respectively. SFA- saturated
 415 fatty acids; MUFA- monounsaturated fatty acids; PUFA- polyunsaturated fatty acids;
 416 PUFA: SFA - ratio of PUFA to SFA

417 ² mg/100 g

418

419 **Table 5.** Effects of dietary selenium sources¹ on glutathione peroxidase activity and
 420 ribonucleotides content of *Pectoralis major* m. in commercial broiler chickens

421

Traits	T1	T2	T3	RMSE	P-value
GSH-Px ²	0.51 ^b	0.62 ^{ab}	0.77 ^a	0.11	0.009
Hypoxanthine ³	2.89	4.71	3.78	1.71	0.247
Inosine ³	43.47	51.94	40.20	14.82	0.394
IMP ³	229.85	190.40	175.66	42.62	0.136
GMP ³	2.67	2.34	2.01	0.76	0.385

422 ^{a-b} LSMeans in the same row with different letters are significantly different (p<0.05)
 423 GSH-Px - glutathione peroxidase; IMP - inosine monophosphate; GMP - guanosine
 424 monophosphate

425 ¹ The T1, T2, and T3 treatment groups were fed diets containing 0.3 ppm Na-Se, 0.15 ppm
 426 Na-Se + 0.15 ppm Zn-L-SeMet, and 0.3 ppm Zn-L-SeMet, respectively.

427 ² unit/mg protein

428 ³ mg/100 g

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