

DIETARY MANIPULATION AND ADDITION OF *Bifidobacterium animalis* FOR THE PRODUCTION OF A PROBIOTIC CONJUGATED LINOLEIC ACID-ENRICHED CAPRINE COALHO CHEESE

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Abstract / Resumo:

The aim of the study was to investigate the influence of an enhanced CLA concentration on the viability of a recognized probiotic strain, *Bifidobacterium animalis* subsp. *lactis* Bb12, in caprine coalho cheeses during a 60 days storage period. Saanen goats (n=30) were divided in two groups, characterized by the diets without and with soybean oil supplementation, for the production of control milk or CLA-enhanced milk, respectively. Four pilot-scale cheese-making trials were performed, in triplicates. Cheeses T1 and T2 were produced with milk from control group, and T3 and T4 with milk from CLA-enhanced group. *B. animalis* Bb12 was added to cheeses T2 and T4. CLA content was determined in goat's milk and in coalho cheeses, after 1, 30 and 60 days. Population of *B. animalis* was monitored fortnightly for cheeses T2 and T4. The supplementation of goat's diets with soybean oil increased the CLA content (isomer C18:2 cis-9, trans-11) in milk, compared to the control, and in T3 and T4 cheeses ($P < 0.05$), compared to T1 and T2. Populations of *B. animalis* were around 8 log cfu/g in T2 and T4 cheeses during the period studied. The higher CLA content in T4 cheese did not influence the viability of *B. animalis*. Therefore, CLA-enhanced goat milk obtained through dietary manipulation may be used for the production of a probiotic caprine coalho cheese with increased content of CLA.