

**Supplementary tables**

**Table 1S** Composition of mineral mixture used in the formulation of standard basal diet

<b>Mineral salt</b>	<b>Quantity (g)</b>
Potassium dihydrogen phosphate	389.00
Magnesium sulphate	57.30
Calcium carbonate	381.40
Manganese sulphate heptahydrate	4.10
Copper sulphate pentahydrate	0.477
Cobalt chloride hexahydrate	0.023
Sodium chloride	139.3
Potassium iodide	0.79
Zinc sulphate heptahydrate	0.55
Ferrous sulphate heptahydrate	0.025

**Note:** The final weight was made up to 1kg with starch

**Table 2S** Composition of vitamin mixture used in the formulation of standard basal diet

<b>Vitamin</b>	<b>Quantity (mg)</b>
Vitamin A	0.60
Vitamin D	0.05
Vitamin E	6.71
Cholinechloride	200.00
Inositol	10.00
P-aminobenzoicacid	10.00
Niacin	4.00
Calcium pantothenate	4.00
Vitamin K	0.50
Riboflavin	0.80
Thiamine hydrochloride	0.50
Biotin	0.04
Folic acid	0.20
Pyridoxine HCl	0.50
Vitamin B12	0.003

**Note:** The final weight was made up to 100 g with starch

**Table 3S** Composition of iron deficient synthetic diet used in the present study

<b>Ingredients</b>	<b>Quantity (%)</b>
Starch	62
Fat	10
Protein	16
Cellulose	2.50
Sucrose	7.50
Mineral mixture	3.50
Vitamin mixture	1.0
Choline chloride	0.25
DL-methionine	0.30