

## Effect of Different Dietary Lysine Regimens on Meat Quality Attributes in Varieties of Indigenous Aseel Chicken

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### Abstract

This study was planned to evaluate the effect of different dietary lysine regimens on sensory attributes and meat quality in Lakha, Mianwali, Mushki and Peshawari varieties of indigenous Aseel. A total of 240 day-old chicks, 60 per each variety were casually selected and sub-divided equally into A, B and C groups. Three lysine regimens namely L1, L2 and L3 were offered to these birds, L1 comprising of 1.3% lysine was served from 0-6<sup>th</sup> week to birds of group A, and L2 constituting 1.4 and 1.2% lysine, where 1.4% lysine from 0-3<sup>rd</sup> week and 1.2% lysine from 4-6<sup>th</sup> week was offered to group B. L3 having 1.5, 1.3 and 1.1% lysine was offered as 1.5 from 0-2<sup>nd</sup>, 1.3 from 3-4<sup>th</sup> and 1.1% lysine from 5-6<sup>th</sup> week, respectively to group C. For evaluation of organoleptic and meat quality traits, 72 birds counting 18 per each variety were randomly selected and slaughtered. The breast and thigh meat pieces were separated and their pH was determined at various intervals. The cooked meat color, taste, flavor, tenderness and juiciness were checked to calculate overall acceptability of panelists on nine hedonic scale points between extreme liking and disliking. The findings of this study revealed L3 lysine regimen to be the best for nourishing the birds having good quality meat with respect to color, taste, flavor tenderness, juiciness and overall acceptability towards its consumers.

**Keywords:** Aseel varieties, Lysine regimens, Meat quality, Meat pH, Sensory attributes

## Yerel Aseel Tavuklarında Farklı Miktarlarda Diyetel Lizin Uygulamalarının Et Kalite Özelliklerine Etkisi

### Öz

Bu çalışma Lakha, Mianwali, Mushki ve Peshawari yerel Aseel tavuklarında farklı miktarlarda diyetel lizin uygulamalarının duyuşal özellikler ve et kalitesi üzerine etkisini araştırmak amacıyla gerçekleştirildi. Toplam 240 adet bir günlük civciv her deneysel uygulamada 60 adet olacak şekilde seçildi ve A, B ve C olmak üzere gruplara ayrıldı. Üç farklı lizin rejimi oluşturuldu; L1: Grup A'daki civcivlere 0-6. haftalar arasında %1.3 lizin verildi, L2: Grup B'deki civcivlere 0-3. haftalar arasında %1.4 ve 4-6. haftalar arasında %1.2 lizin verildi, L3: Grup C'deki civcivlere 0-2. haftalar arasında %1.5, 3-4. haftalar arasında %1.3 ve 5-6. haftalar arasında %1.1 lizin verildi. Organoleptik ve et kalite özelliklerini değerlendirmek amacıyla her bir varyantta 18 adet olacak şekilde 72 civciv rastgele seçildi ve kesime sevk edildi. Göğüs ve but etlerinin pH değerleri farklı aralıklarla ölçüldü. Pişmiş et rengi, tadı, lezzeti, pişkinliği ve suyu 9 hedonik skala puanlaması kullanılarak panelistlerin sevme ve sevmemeleri değerlendirildi. Çalışma sonuçları L3 lizin uygulamasının et rengi, tadı, lezzeti, pişkinliği, suyu ve genel olarak tüketicilerin memnuniyeti bakımından en iyi uygulama olduğunu gösterdi.

**Anhtar sözcükler:** Aseel varyantları, Lizin rejimi, Et kalitesi, Et pH'sı, Duyusal nitelikler

## INTRODUCTION

The poultry meat is valued for its high quality protein source, less fat content, high digestibility and superior organoleptic traits. These nutritional characteristics makes the

poultry meat, especially of the chicken more appreciable by consumers<sup>[1]</sup>. At market level, the breast part of chicken is considered to be the best among the whole carcass due to its muscle fiber conformation and development and even a mild change in its yield could have a substantial



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economic impact [2]. That's why it is very essential to keep the chicken industry up to the running culinary standards by maintenance and improvement in the chemical composition and technical properties of carcass especially the breast muscle through performance evaluation [3]. As chicken carcass or meat quality of pectoral muscles is highly dependent on its biophysical, biochemical and histological properties which are influenced by age, sex, inheritance, nutrition and environmental factors [2]. In some studies, a positive correlation among biochemical, histological characteristics and meat quality of breast muscles has been found [4], while a negative impact of bird's age on meat quality has been revealed, especially when breast muscle fiber increases in size with the increase in age [5,6]. However, higher pH values with dark colored meat of pectoral muscle fibers along with increased in size and diameter among fast-growing chicken have also been reported [7]. The fast-growing commercial chicken meat have larger muscle fiber diameter which reduces its tenderness but the slow growing native breeds of chicken have shorter muscle fiber diameter and hence is comparatively more tender and soft [8]. Lot of variations have been found in meat quality of slow and fast-growing chicken with respect to breed and breeding system [9]. A slow-growing chicken (indigenous breeds) being reared under free range in natural environment and slaughtered at mature age might provide a meat with higher quality traits up to the consumer's taste and sensory quality expectations as compared to fast-growing (like broilers, leghorns as well as products of their crosses) chicken [10]. There is an emerging trend for the conservation and development of native chicken breeds as they are being important with respect to historical, traditional as well as socio-economical perspective [11]. The free-ranged and outdoor organic chicken models have significantly more sensory scores of panelists for juiciness of their breast meat as well as overall acceptability. Moreover, their breast and thigh meat have higher percentages of cooking and shear loss values with low fat content [12]. Another study has also revealed that free-ranged chicken had significantly higher breast meat percentages, CP (crude protein) content, values of shear force, chewiness with significantly less fat part, hardness and factorability as compared to commercial fenced chicken [13,14]. Indigenous Aseel with better growth, carcass, blood biochemical profile, immunity, egg production and persistency have been found when lysine was supplemented as per growth requirements of birds [15]. With the hope that improved growth and carcass of Aseel will ultimately led to better quality, the current experiment was designed to evaluate the comparative sensory traits and meat quality among varieties of indigenous Aseel chicken been reared under three different dietary lysine regimens.

## MATERIAL and METHODS

### Place of Experiment and Animal Care

The present experiment was conducted at Indigenous

Chicken Genetic Resource Center (ICGRC), University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (UVAS), Lahore, Pakistan, by keeping in view the standard instructions for the care and welfare of the experimental birds. All the procedures used in this study were in accordance with the guidelines and code of practice of University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Lahore, Pakistan. Before conducted this study, ethical approval was granted.

### Experimental Animals and Design

This experiment was started by securing 240 day-old Aseel chicks ( $34 \pm 2$  g) counting 60 per each of the four varieties including Lakha, Mianwali, Mushki and Peshawari. These randomly selected birds were divided into three sub-groups A, B and C, each with 20 birds of each variety. These bird were positioned in equally spaced blocks following standard conditions under Randomized Complete Block Design (RCBD) with a factorial arrangement of 3 (lysine regimens/treatments)  $\times$  4 (varieties)  $\times$  20 (replicates) with one bird in each replicate.

### Experimental Feed and Feeding Program

Three lysine regimens namely L1, L2 and L3 were offered to these Aseel birds, wherein L1 comprising 1.3% lysine was served from 0-6<sup>th</sup> week (in one phase) to birds of group A, and L2 constituting 1.4% and 1.2% lysine, where 1.4% lysine from 0-3<sup>rd</sup> week and 1.2% lysine from 4-6<sup>th</sup> week (in two phases) was offered to group B. Whereas, L3 having 1.5%, 1.3% and 1.1% lysine was offered as 1.5 from 0-2<sup>nd</sup>, 1.3 from 3-4<sup>th</sup> and 1.1% lysine from 5-6<sup>th</sup> week (in three phases), respectively to group C. *Table 1* and *Table 2* represent the ingredients and nutrients composition of experimental feed. After six weeks of rearing under three lysine regimens, all these birds were equally offered the normal broiler grower feed prepared as per standards of National Research Council [16].

### Meat Quality and Sensory Evaluation Parameters

After eighteenth week of growth, 72 birds per each variety and 6 birds per treatment group were indiscriminately selected, exposed to fast for 12 h and slaughtered rendering to the Halal Muslim manner. Afterwards, the slaughtered birds were de-feathered and their breasts and thighs pieces were separated from the main body to evaluate the meat quality and organoleptic traits as per method adopted by Adedeji *et al.* [17]. The pH of each breast and thigh sample at various intervals was determined by direct probe and thrusting the digital pH meter into breast and thigh muscle. The meat samples were enfolded in impervious polythene wrappers which could be destroyed by cooking. The breast and thigh meat samples after 20 min of cooking in boiling water bath without using any spices were presented to a panel of ten experts for evaluation of color, taste, flavor, tenderness, juiciness and overall acceptability. The assessment was based on nine-point hedonic scale constituting maximum (9) for extremely like and the minimum (1) for poorest score of dislike.

**Table 1. Chemical composition of experimental diets**

Ingredients	Dietary Lysine Levels (%)				
	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5
Corn	59.08	59.08	59.08	59.08	59.08
Sunflower meal (24%)	18.90	18.90	18.90	18.90	18.90
Soya bean meal (44%)	7.04	7.04	7.04	7.04	7.04
Rapeseed meal (36%)	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
Fish meal (52%)	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
Poultry by-product meal (50%)	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
Molasses	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
Limestone	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14
Lysine sulphate	0.75	0.80	0.90	1.00	1.10
Mono calcium phosphate	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45
Vitamin-mineral premix*	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20
Sodium chloride	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18
Alimet (novus)	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17
Betaine HCl	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05
Threonine	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04

\* Vit-Min premix supplied per 1 kg of diet: Vit. A 12,000 IU; Vit. D<sub>3</sub> 2,200 ICU; Vit. E 10 mg; Vit. K<sub>3</sub> 2 mg; Vit. B<sub>1</sub> 1 mg; Vit. B<sub>2</sub> 4 mg; Vit. B<sub>6</sub> 1.5 mg; Vit. B<sub>12</sub> 10 µg; nicotinic acid 20 mg; folic acid 1 mg; pantothenic acid 10 mg; biotin 50 µg; choline chloride 500 mg; copper 10 iron 30 mg; manganese 55 mg; zinc 50 mg; iodine 1 mg; selenium 0.1 mg

### Statistical Analysis

Prior to analysis, degree of uniformity and homogeneity of variance was tested and verified for the normality, collected data were analyzed by two-way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) and General Linear Model of SAS [18] software and the outcomes (results) were indicated as least square means and their standard errors. Duncan's Multiple Range test [19] was used to compare the treatment means and they were considered to be significant at  $P \leq 0.05$ .

## RESULTS

Significant ( $P \leq 0.05$ ) variations were found in different organoleptic properties of thigh meat in Aseel birds reared on different lysine regimens and both L3 (1.5-1.3-1.1%) as well as L2 (1.4-1.2%) were found to be the better for nourishing the birds with moderately liked color, taste, juiciness and overall acceptability of panelists towards organoleptic properties of cooked meat. While, flavor and tenderness of meat was better in L3 followed by L2 and L1 lysine regimens. Non-significant variations were found among different varieties of Aseel for organoleptic properties of thigh meat (Table 3). Likewise, significant variations were also shown by rating the breast meat organoleptic properties including very much liking color, taste, flavor and tenderness among lysine regimens, wherein, L3 found to be better followed by L2 and L1 feeding regimens. While juiciness and overall

**Table 2. Calculated nutritional composition of experimental diets**

Nutrients (%)	Dietary Lysine Level %				
	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5
Metabolize energy (k calories/kg)	2746.99	2753.69	2760.39	2767.09	2773.79
Dry matter	87.17	87.36	87.56	87.76	87.96
Crude protein	17.06	17.18	17.29	17.40	17.51
Crude fiber	6.93	6.93	6.93	6.93	6.93
Ash	4.09	4.09	4.09	4.09	4.09
Either extract	3.59	3.59	3.59	3.59	3.59
Calcium	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84
Chloride	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22
Sodium	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16
Total phosphorus	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68
Potassium	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71
Digestible phosphorus	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36
Linoleic acid	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42
Lysine	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5
Methionine	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45
Methionine + Cystine	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78
Digestible arginine	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98
Digestible tryptophan	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14
Digestible threonine	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57
Digestible lysine	0.99	1.09	1.20	1.31	1.41
Digestible methionine	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42
Digestible methionine + Cysteine	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67
Threonine	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67
Tryptophan	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19
Arginine	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
Cysteine	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32
Digestible cysteine	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26
Valine	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82
Digestible valine	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71
Histidine	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43
Digestible histidine	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37
Phenylalanine	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78
Digestible phenylalanine	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67
Leucine	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44
Digestible leucine	1.21	1.21	1.21	1.21	1.21
Isoleucine	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66
Digestible isoleucine	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58

acceptability of breast meat was better in both L3 and L2 (non-significant among themselves) lysine regimens than L1 as was expressed by panelists during sensory evaluation. Non-significant variations were found among different varieties of Aseel for organoleptic properties of

**Table 3.** Various parameters involving sensory evaluation of thigh meat in varieties of indigenous Aseel at 18<sup>th</sup> week of age

Variables	Color	Taste	Flavor	Tenderness	Juiciness	Overall Acceptability	
<b>Lysine levels (%) / Regimens (LR)</b>							
1.3 (L1)	7.21±0.13 <sup>b</sup>	6.50±0.26 <sup>b</sup>	5.96±0.18 <sup>c</sup>	5.79±0.16 <sup>c</sup>	5.79±0.13 <sup>b</sup>	6.75±0.12 <sup>b</sup>	
1.4-1.2 (L2)	7.79±0.13 <sup>a</sup>	7.25±0.15 <sup>a</sup>	7.21±0.13 <sup>b</sup>	7.08±0.15 <sup>b</sup>	6.83±0.17 <sup>a</sup>	7.58±0.15 <sup>a</sup>	
1.5-1.3-1.1 (L3)	8.08±0.18 <sup>a</sup>	7.63±0.19 <sup>a</sup>	7.88±0.16 <sup>a</sup>	7.54±0.13 <sup>a</sup>	7.17±0.18 <sup>a</sup>	7.75±0.11 <sup>a</sup>	
<b>Aseel varieties (AV)</b>							
Lakha	7.83±0.17	7.00±0.26	7.00±0.29	6.72±0.25	6.50±0.22	7.39±0.18	
Mianwali	7.61±0.22	7.22±0.30	6.78±0.24	6.89±0.24	6.61±0.22	7.44±0.18	
Mushki	7.61±0.23	7.22±0.22	7.11±0.28	6.67±0.24	6.61±0.28	7.28±0.18	
Peshawari	7.72±0.16	7.06±0.26	7.17±0.25	6.94±0.25	6.67±0.21	7.33±0.18	
<b>Lysine levels (%) / Regimens × Aseel varieties (LR × AV)</b>							
1.3 (L1)	Lakha	7.50±0.22	6.33±0.49	5.67±0.33 <sup>c</sup>	5.67±0.33 <sup>c</sup>	5.67±0.21 <sup>d</sup>	6.83±0.17 <sup>bc</sup>
	Mianwali	7.00±0.26	6.50±0.76	5.83±0.31 <sup>c</sup>	6.00±0.37 <sup>bc</sup>	5.83±0.31 <sup>cd</sup>	6.67±0.21 <sup>c</sup>
	Mushki	7.00±0.37	6.50±0.43	6.00±0.37 <sup>c</sup>	5.67±0.33 <sup>c</sup>	5.67±0.21 <sup>d</sup>	6.67±0.33 <sup>c</sup>
	Peshawari	7.33±0.21	6.67±0.42	6.33±0.42 <sup>bc</sup>	5.83±0.31 <sup>c</sup>	6.00±0.37 <sup>bcd</sup>	6.83±0.31 <sup>bc</sup>
1.4-1.2 (L2)	Lakha	7.83±0.31	7.00±0.37	7.33±0.21 <sup>ab</sup>	6.83±0.31 <sup>ab</sup>	6.83±0.31 <sup>abc</sup>	7.67±0.42 <sup>ab</sup>
	Mianwali	7.67±0.21	7.33±0.33	7.00±0.26 <sup>ab</sup>	7.00±0.37 <sup>a</sup>	6.83±0.31 <sup>abc</sup>	7.67±0.21 <sup>ab</sup>
	Mushki	7.83±0.31	7.33±0.21	7.33±0.33 <sup>ab</sup>	7.00±0.26 <sup>a</sup>	6.83±0.48 <sup>abc</sup>	7.50±0.22 <sup>abc</sup>
	Peshawari	7.83±0.31	7.33±0.33	7.17±0.31 <sup>ab</sup>	7.50±0.22 <sup>a</sup>	6.83±0.31 <sup>abc</sup>	7.50±0.34 <sup>abc</sup>
1.5-1.3-1.1 (L3)	Lakha	8.17±0.31	7.67±0.33	8.00±0.37 <sup>a</sup>	7.67±0.21 <sup>a</sup>	7.00±0.37 <sup>ab</sup>	7.67±0.21 <sup>ab</sup>
	Mianwali	8.17±0.48	7.83±0.17	7.50±0.34 <sup>a</sup>	7.67±0.21 <sup>a</sup>	7.17±0.31 <sup>a</sup>	8.00±0.26 <sup>a</sup>
	Mushki	8.00±0.45	7.83±0.31	8.00±0.37 <sup>a</sup>	7.33±0.33 <sup>a</sup>	7.33±0.49 <sup>a</sup>	7.67±0.21 <sup>ab</sup>
	Peshawari	8.00±0.26	7.17±0.60	8.00±0.26 <sup>a</sup>	7.50±0.34 <sup>a</sup>	7.17±0.31 <sup>a</sup>	7.67±0.21 <sup>ab</sup>
<b>Source of variation</b>		<b>P-value</b>					
LR	0.0009	0.0016	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	
AV	0.7991	0.8847	0.4827	0.6391	0.9443	0.8865	
LR×AV	0.9683	0.9382	<.0001	<.0001	0.0013	0.0026	

Values have been mentioned as Mean ± SE and various superscripted alphabets show significant ( $P \leq 0.05$ ) differences among them (order of significance is as:  $a > b > c \dots$ ); Rating scale score points = 9; Dislike (extremely = 1, very much = 2, moderately = 3, slightly = 4); Neither dislike nor like = 5; Like (slightly = 6, moderately = 7, very much = 8, extremely = 9)

breast meat (Table 4). As far as interactions among lysine regimens and Aseel varieties are concerned, inconsistent results of organoleptic properties of both thigh and breast meat were observed between moderately and very much liked. Non-significant variations were found among pH of both thigh and breast meat at various intervals (0, 20 and 120 min) after slaughtering in lysine regimens, Aseel varieties and their interaction ( $P > 0.05$ ) (Table 5).

## DISCUSSION

As nutrition plays a vital role in muscle growth and meat quality characters of poultry birds, particularly, the muscle development and yield may largely be determined by protein intake which intern affects many molecular pathways with substantial consequences on post mortem metabolism of muscles and eventually the meat quality [20]. Moreover, the meat quality can be modulated and improved more efficiently by strategically supplying the

protein and amino acid during early growth [21]. This study is in close lines with our study and its findings, wherein, lysine was supplemented in various dietary regimens and three phase feeding lysine regimen (L3) was found to be very effective with respect to organoleptic and meat quality characteristics. Meat quality is a combination of biochemistry, muscle morphology, muscle fiber configuration [22]. However, genetic factors (sex, breed and strain) may also have great contribution in specific quality traits of meat consistency storing and processing ability [23]. In our findings of organoleptic traits and meat quality characteristics with respect to Aseel varieties, a variable pattern was observed which might also be due to genetic impact. The birds susceptible to fattening possess less sensitivity towards dietary variations than those which are leaner [24]. As far as, the change in post mortem pH of breast and thigh meat is concerned, a large number of factors are involved with respect to birds, feed and feeding processes [25]. Pre-slaughter management has direct relationship with meat

**Table 4.** Various parameters involving sensory evaluation of breast meat in varieties of indigenous Aseel at 18<sup>th</sup> week of age

Variables	Color	Taste	Flavor	Tenderness	Juiciness	Overall Acceptability	
<b>Lysine levels (%) / Regimens (LR)</b>							
1.3 (L1)	6.75±0.14 <sup>c</sup>	7.00±0.16 <sup>c</sup>	6.75±0.12 <sup>c</sup>	7.13±0.14 <sup>c</sup>	6.83±0.17 <sup>b</sup>	6.96±0.18 <sup>b</sup>	
1.4-1.2 (L2)	7.46±0.10 <sup>b</sup>	7.67±0.17 <sup>b</sup>	7.67±0.14 <sup>b</sup>	7.79±0.13 <sup>b</sup>	7.88±0.20 <sup>a</sup>	7.63±0.15 <sup>a</sup>	
1.5-1.3-1.1 (L3)	7.96±0.14 <sup>a</sup>	8.17±0.16 <sup>a</sup>	8.13±0.13 <sup>a</sup>	8.33±0.12 <sup>a</sup>	8.25±0.18 <sup>a</sup>	7.96±0.15 <sup>a</sup>	
<b>Aseel varieties (AV)</b>							
Lakha	7.44±0.18	7.33±0.20	7.56±0.20	7.50±0.19	7.61±0.26	7.56±0.18	
Mianwali	7.44±0.18	7.67±0.23	7.50±0.23	7.72±0.23	7.72±0.25	7.56±0.20	
Mushki	7.22±0.19	7.83±0.20	7.50±0.20	7.83±0.17	7.78±0.29	7.61±0.22	
Peshawari	7.44±0.20	7.61±0.23	7.50±0.19	7.94±0.17	7.50±0.23	7.33±0.23	
<b>Lysine levels (%) / Regimens × Aseel varieties (LR × AV)</b>							
1.3(L1)	Lakha	6.83±0.31 <sup>bc</sup>	6.83±0.31 <sup>c</sup>	7.00±0.26 <sup>bcd</sup>	7.00±0.37 <sup>de</sup>	6.67±0.21 <sup>cd</sup>	7.00±0.26 <sup>bc</sup>
	Mianwali	6.83±0.31 <sup>bc</sup>	7.00±0.45 <sup>c</sup>	6.50±0.22 <sup>e</sup>	6.83±0.31 <sup>e</sup>	7.17±0.48 <sup>abcd</sup>	7.17±0.40 <sup>abc</sup>
	Mushki	6.50±0.22 <sup>c</sup>	7.17±0.31 <sup>bc</sup>	6.67±0.21 <sup>de</sup>	7.33±0.21 <sup>cde</sup>	7.00±0.37 <sup>abcd</sup>	6.83±0.31 <sup>c</sup>
	Peshawari	6.83±0.31 <sup>bc</sup>	7.00±0.26 <sup>c</sup>	6.83±0.31 <sup>cde</sup>	7.33±0.21 <sup>cde</sup>	6.50±0.22 <sup>d</sup>	6.83±0.48 <sup>c</sup>
1.4-1.2 (L2)	Lakha	7.50±0.22 <sup>ab</sup>	7.50±0.43 <sup>abc</sup>	7.50±0.34 <sup>bcd</sup>	7.50±0.22 <sup>bcd</sup>	7.83±0.48 <sup>abc</sup>	7.67±0.21
	Mianwali	7.50±0.22 <sup>ab</sup>	7.67±0.21 <sup>abc</sup>	7.67±0.21 <sup>abc</sup>	7.83±0.31 <sup>abcd</sup>	8.00±0.45 <sup>ab</sup>	7.67±0.33 <sup>abc</sup>
	Mushki	7.33±0.21 <sup>abc</sup>	7.83±0.31 <sup>abc</sup>	7.83±0.31 <sup>ab</sup>	7.83±0.31 <sup>abcd</sup>	8.00±0.52 <sup>ab</sup>	7.83±0.31 <sup>abc</sup>
	Peshawari	7.50±0.22 <sup>ab</sup>	7.67±0.42 <sup>abc</sup>	7.67±0.33 <sup>abc</sup>	8.00±0.26 <sup>abc</sup>	7.67±0.21 <sup>bcd</sup>	7.33±0.33 <sup>abc</sup>
1.5-1.3-1.1 (L3)	Lakha	8.00±0.26 <sup>a</sup>	7.67±0.21 <sup>abc</sup>	8.17±0.31 <sup>a</sup>	8.00±0.26 <sup>abc</sup>	8.33±0.33 <sup>a</sup>	8.00±0.37 <sup>ab</sup>
	Mianwali	8.00±0.26 <sup>a</sup>	8.33±0.33 <sup>a</sup>	8.33±0.33 <sup>a</sup>	8.50±0.22 <sup>a</sup>	8.00±0.37 <sup>ab</sup>	7.83±0.31 <sup>abc</sup>
	Mushki	7.83±0.31 <sup>a</sup>	8.50±0.22 <sup>a</sup>	8.00±0.26 <sup>a</sup>	8.33±0.21 <sup>ab</sup>	8.33±0.49 <sup>a</sup>	8.17±0.31 <sup>a</sup>
	Peshawari	8.00±0.37 <sup>a</sup>	8.17±0.40 <sup>ab</sup>	8.00±0.21 <sup>a</sup>	8.50±0.22 <sup>a</sup>	8.33±0.33 <sup>a</sup>	7.83±0.31 <sup>abc</sup>
<b>Source of variation</b>		<b>P-value</b>					
LR	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	0.0003	
AV	0.6837	0.3263	0.9926	0.2095	0.8221	0.7454	
LR × AV	0.0004	0.0073	<.0001	<.0001	0.0041	0.0519	

Values have been mentioned as Mean ± SE and various superscripted alphabets show significant ( $P \leq 0.05$ ) differences among them (order of significance is as:  $a > b > c \dots$ ); Rating scale score points = 9; Dislike (extremely = 1, very much = 2, moderately = 3, slightly = 4); Neither dislike nor like = 5; Like (slightly = 6, moderately = 7, very much = 8, extremely = 9)

color and pH, which may directly affect the ability of myoglobin to bind water and meat quality attributes [26]. Contradictory study also reported non-significant variation regarding meat pH among the indigenous genotypes of India [27]. Moreover, other scientists observed that heavy birds did not struggle much and their pH decline was very slow [28]. Studies on indigenous chickens revealed higher pH value in higher weight birds as compared to lower ones [27]. The normal range of pH for broiler chickens were reported 5.80 to 6.29. Higher pH leads to dark, firm and dry (DFD) meat with poor storage quality due to accelerated microbial growth whereas low pH improves the shelf life of meat but pale coloration [28]. Meat pH has great effect on its color and water holding capacity, drip loss and tenderness which intern are dependent upon lysine supply and intake [21]. Breast muscle glycogen storage might also be greatly responsible for meat pH variations. High ultimate pH levels can be observed in breast meat when lysine intake is reduced along with decreased

glycogen storage, while low pH when lysine supply is in excess and more energy storage in the form of muscle glycogen [29]. The present overall better acceptability of panelists towards breast meat in terms of color, taste, flavor, tenderness and juiciness as compared to thigh might be due to the presence of more inosine-5-monophosphate (IMP), generally the key nucleotide in muscles which imparts taste and flavor to cooked meat [30] and lysine content of breast (7% of breast meat), as the proper intake of protein in the form of lysine efficiently controls the molecular regulation of breast muscle growth and reinforce the modulation of meat quality characteristics [31]. However, opposite to our study, some studies have also indicated that food programs and lysine supplementation had no impact on pork meat quality attributes i.e., pH, drip loss, water holding capacity and shear force [32].

The present study revealed that the change of nutritional strategy does effect the ultimate muscle growth, pH and

Table 5. pH values of breast and thigh meat at different time intervals (minutes) after slaughtering among four varieties of indigenous Aseel at 18 <sup>th</sup> week of age							
Variables	0 min		20 min		120 min		
	Breast	Thigh	Breast	Thigh	Breast	Thigh	
<b>Lysine Levels (%)/Regimens (LR)</b>							
1.3 (L1)	6.53±0.09	6.75±0.07	6.16±0.07	6.45±0.08	5.80±0.06	6.09±0.06	
1.4-1.2 (L2)	6.59±0.08	6.73±0.08	6.27±0.07	6.29±0.06	5.76±0.05	6.02±0.05	
1.5-1.3-1.1 (L3)	6.49±0.08	6.79±0.08	6.19±0.06	6.43±0.07	5.88±0.05	6.07±0.06	
<b>Aseel varieties (AV)</b>							
Lakha	6.46±0.11	6.65±0.08	6.14±0.05	6.27±0.02	5.74±0.07	6.06±0.07	
Mianwali	6.50±0.07	6.82±0.09	6.28±0.08	6.44±0.01	5.88±0.04	6.01±0.08	
Mushki	6.70±0.10	6.73±0.05	6.21±0.01	6.49±0.09	5.73±0.04	6.06±0.07	
Peshawari	6.50±0.09	6.83±0.02	6.20±0.07	6.37±0.06	5.89±0.01	6.12±0.09	
<b>Lysine levels (%)/Regimens × Aseel varieties (LR × AV)</b>							
1.3 (L1)	Lakha	6.29±0.12	6.55±0.13	6.11±0.12	6.15±0.11	5.65±0.11	6.03±0.11
	Mianwali	6.54±0.14	6.87±0.13	6.22±0.18	6.56±0.13	5.95±0.12	5.99±0.12
	Mushki	6.70±0.23	6.76±0.08	6.07±0.19	6.61±0.18	5.67±0.11	6.05±0.12
	Peshawari	6.62±0.20	6.84±0.14	6.23±0.11	6.49±0.15	5.95±0.13	6.29±0.12
1.4-1.2 (L2)	Lakha	6.48±0.01	6.54±0.13	6.22±0.23	6.26±0.12	5.67±0.11	6.06±0.11
	Mianwali	6.60±0.13	6.74±0.20	6.39±0.14	6.19±0.11	5.72±0.11	6.10±0.11
	Mushki	6.71±0.18	6.71±0.18	6.19±0.11	6.19±0.11	5.74±0.10	5.74±0.10
	Peshawari	6.57±0.12	6.91±0.13	6.31±0.12	6.30±0.12	5.91±0.11	5.91±0.12
1.5-1.3-1.1 (L3)	Lakha	6.62±0.24	6.86±0.13	6.10±0.12	6.41±0.14	5.92±0.12	6.10±0.12
	Mianwali	6.35±0.12	6.85±0.15	6.24±0.12	6.57±0.13	5.97±0.11	5.95±0.12
	Mushki	6.70±0.14	6.69±0.16	6.39±0.12	6.43±0.15	5.79±0.11	6.07±0.11
	Peshawari	6.31±0.12	6.76±0.17	6.05±0.11	6.31±0.12	5.83±0.11	6.16±0.11
<b>Source of variation</b>		<b>P-value</b>					
LR	0.7127	0.8590	0.4895	0.2060	0.3472	0.7079	
AV	0.2849	0.4133	0.6744	0.2244	0.1742	0.7167	
LR × AV	0.5996	0.7199	0.6517	0.4048	0.4752	0.4388	

other physico-chemical traits of meat and L3 lysine regimen found to be better for producing the meat with superior sensory attributes. The present findings also disclosed the new ways of research to define the requirement of amino acid (s) and the metabolic reasons involved in breast and thigh muscle pH variations in relation to protein and carbohydrate metabolism among slow growing breeds like Aseel.

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#### DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The content matter of this article is based on findings of

original research work and there is no any personal conflict and interest on the part of any author.

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