

Modern nutritional approaches to mitigating enteric methane emissions in ruminants: A review

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Abstract: Sustainable livestock production increased public concern towards reducing greenhouse gases. The emission of enteric methane from ruminants, if not well managed, contributes to a significant loss of energy consumed and a marked environmental challenge. Methane has <80 times higher global warming potential than CO₂. Enteric methane contributes by >40% of agricultural emissions and 13-19% of global methane emissions. Furthermore, the increased demand for animal protein sources, especially in developing countries, highlights the pressure on greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore, the search for a methane mitigating strategy is a continuous series and a hot topic in animal nutrition laboratories. There are several mitigating nutritional strategies with varying mitigating potentials from 10 to 90% associated with or without digestion or growth complications. These solutions include the use of new ingredients such as insect meal, modulating the quality of food, the inclusion of lipids, and increased concentrate: roughage ration, which decreased CH₄ approximately by 18%, 30%, 6% and 50% in the best situations. Furthermore, feed additives have considerable effects on CH₄ emissions by inhibiting methanogenesis or competing with substrates for methanogens, such as nanoengineered or nanoencapsulated materials, CH₄ inhibitors (statins, bromochloromethan, and 3-NOP) that could inhibit CH₄ production by 90%. Several phytobiotic feed additives, including tannins, saponins, and essential oils, have moderate CH₄ inhibition effect up to 30%. Seaweed was reported to have nearly complete inhibition of CH₄ of the *Asparagopsis*, *Ascophyllum*, *Dictyota* and *Rhodophyta* genes in vitro or in vivo evaluation. However, the application of these solutions still faces some barriers, including cost, availability, efficacy across production systems, and potential impacts on animal productivity. This review evaluates the mechanisms, effectiveness, and nutritional implications of these nutritional strategies, with particular attention to their applicability in different ruminant production systems (in vivo and in vitro models) for more sustainable production.

Keywords: Enteric CH₄; nutritional strategies; CH₄ inhibitors; insect meal; nanotechnology; feed additives.

1 Introduction

With the growth of the population and increased nutritional awareness, the demand for animal protein products (meat, milk, and processed animal products) is increasing. This increase is associated with serious environmental impacts and triggers public health and environmental concerns related to greenhouse gases produced by ruminants (Ban & Guan, 2021). Worldwide efforts have been paid of trying to control the increase in greenhouse gas production and increased atmospheric temperature above 1.5 °C by 20250 to maintain global warming at a safe level (Reisinger et al., 2025). This commitment needs to reach zero greenhouse gases emissions globally by 2050, which means an equilibrium between emitted gases and the recovery of these gases by the environment (Matthews & Wynes, 2022).

Ruminants have a unique digestive system that adapts to utilized low quality feed and forage and digests complex fiber sources during fermentation process to produce easy digested substrates and new nutrients, including volatile fatty acids (VFA), vitamins, proteins, etc. (Owens & Basalan, 2016). This process performed by a group of anerobic microbes in a complex ecosystem including bacteria, protozoa, and fungi that have adaptability, interactions, and symbiotic relationship (Castillo-González et al., 2014). The rumen is a suitable environment for these microorganisms to grow and reproduce and get energy from the animal feed, at the same time it facilitates roughage and low-quality grass digestion and conversion to highly nutrients in their microbial body mass that can be used by the host finally (Wanapat et al., 2013). On the other hand, the fermentation process produces some by-products, such as carbon dioxide and H₂, with the latter used by Methanogens to produce CH₄ (Owens & Basalan, 2016).

Ruminants consider the main CH₄ producer in the agriculture sectors, whereas they contribute by >40% of CH₄ emission from agriculture greenhouse gases (Dillon et al., 2021) and 13-19% of the global CH₄ emissions (Liu & WB., 2008). CH₄ has 86 times global warming potential that of CO₂ during the last 20 years (IPCC, 2021). Furthermore, CH₄ causes a significant energy loss averaged 8-12% of total consumed feed, which consequently causes significant economic loss (Johnson KA & DE., 1995). CH₄ emissions also represent part of energy losses during ruminant farming. On average, approximately 8 to 12% of the energy consumed in feed is wasted in the form of CH₄ emissions (Johnson & Johnson, 1995). Few numbers of the largest meat and dairy companies (35) produced 14% of total livestock greenhouse gases emissions and currently they have to acquire the possible strategies to decrease this emissions (Leahy et al., 2020). Figure 1 showed the contribution of different main sectors to CH₄ emission. It showed that the agriculture sector represents the second source of CH₄ after the energy sector.

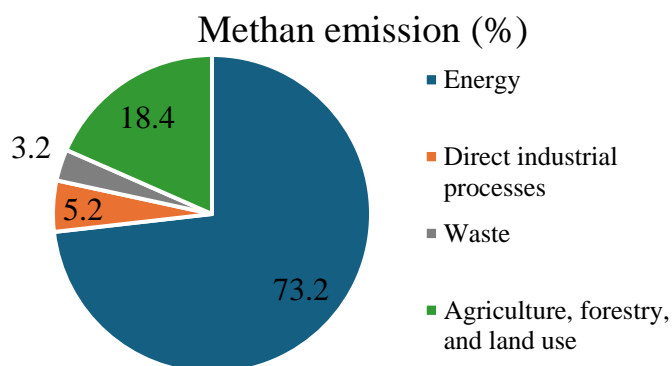


Fig. (1) Contribution of the main sectors to CH₄ (%) emission (Ritchie, 2020; Dillon et al., 2021).

The attempts to reduce CH₄ emission from ruminants are the worldwide focus of animal nutrition scientists. Hundreds of attempts have been conducted, including management, genetics, and nutritional strategies (chemical and antimicrobial compounds) to modify the microbial structure or the fermentation process to reduce CH₄ production and enhance energetic efficiency (Owens & Basalan, 2016). The review aims to provide a comprehensive resource for researchers, nutritionists, and policymakers seeking novel nutritional-based solutions to alleviate or mitigate CH₄ emission from livestock and overcome these sustainability challenges.

2 Methane production in the rumen and Methanogenesis

Understanding CH₄ production in ruminants requires examination of the rumen's complex microbial ecosystem (Patra et al., 2017). The responsible microorganisms for CH₄ production in rumen is methanogens, which are several species of anaerobic organisms (120 species) that can utilize carbon dioxide and hydrogen to produce CH₄. The methanogens usually grow at pH range of 6.0–8.0 and can utilize hydrogen, formate, methanol, methylamine, acetate, etc. as a substrate (Sirohi et al., 2010; Cersosimo & Wright, 2015). The rumen methanogens community structure differs from ruminant species to others and also feed type, in *Mandya* sheep fed on straw and concentrate diet *Bacteroidetes* and *Firmicutes* represent 82% of the bacterial community and *Methanobacteriales* constituted of 13% of the community, while Archaea account 2.5% of the ruminal microbiota (Malik et al., 2022).

The CH₄ production process begins in the rumen by breaking down plant polysaccharides by fiber-digesting bacteria (e.g., *Ruminococcus* spp.) producing H₂ as a byproduct (Gleason, 2021). This H₂ is then utilized by methanogenic archaea (primarily *methanobrevibacter* spp.) to reduce CO₂ to CH₄ through the hydrogenotrophic pathway (Liu et al., 2017). In addition, rumen ciliate protozoa play a crucial role by hosting Methanogens in symbiotic relationships, accounting for up to 37% of total Methanogenesis (Gleason, 2021).

Several dietary factors significantly influence the CH₄ production process, high-fiber diets promote acetate production (a major H₂ source), while starch-rich diets favor propionate formation, which acts as an H₂ sink (Li et al., 2022; Chiariotti, 2023). Animal-related factors also contribute, with breed differences and the production stage affecting emission rates (Ghassemi Nejad et al., 2024; Muetzel et al., 2024). Recent advances in microbial genomics have revealed substantial diversity in rumen methanogen populations, suggesting potential for targeted microbial interventions (Ghassemi Nejad et al., 2024). The ratio of acetate to propionate in rumen fermentation serves as a key indicator of CH₄ production potential, with higher acetate:propionate ratios typically associated with greater CH₄ emissions (Morgavi et al., 2010; Vanhatalo & Halmemies-Beauchet-Filleau, 2020).

3 Dietary Strategies for CH₄ Mitigation

3.1 Insects as novel feed ingredients

Recently, the use of edible insects as a feedstuff is increasing, where it introduces nutritious and cost-efficient feed ingredients (Hong & Kim, 2022). Its impacts on rumen fermentation and CH₄ production need to be extensively addressed. Ahmed et al. (2021) reported that substitution of 25% of soyabean with *Gryllus bimaculatus* and *Brachytrupes portentosus* meal significantly decreased CH₄ production by 18% and 16%, respectively.

In addition, in male beef cattle, cricket (*G. bimaculatus*) meal using as a 100% substitution levels of soyabean meal significantly increased VFA, and propionate concentrations, with significant

decrease of CH₄ production and protozoal populations (Phesatcha et al., 2023). Eight full-fat insect meals were examined in comparison with conventional plant protein sources by *in vitro* experiment. The used insect meal markedly reduced total gas production, CH₄ emission, total VFA, ammonia level, and organic matter disappearance compared to plant proteins (Renna et al., 2022).

Black soldier fly larva oil has been used in *in vitro* study up to 6% in 40:60 roughage to concentrate ratio. The results indicated that 4% is the suitable addition level with significant low level CH₄ production and suitable digestibility coefficients (Prachumchai & Cherdthong, 2023). The modulation effects of insect meal or oil on ruminal fermentation could be attributed to its chitin, fat, and protein contents, and the high level of unsaturated fatty acids that could inhibit rumen fermentation (Renna et al., 2022).

3.2 Forage quality and management

One of the main strategies to mitigate CH₄ production is considering the quality of dietary forage. Legumes like alfalfa and clover typically produce 15-20% lower CH₄ yields (g CH₄/kg DMI) than grasses due to their lower fiber content and faster rumen passage rates (Hatew, 2015). Bannink et al. (2016) reported that CH₄ emission intensity changed in dairy cattle fed grass herbage and grass silage by 5.6% to 7.3% of gross energy intake and 27.4 to 36.9 g CH₄/kg digested OM, and 19.7 to 24.6 g CH₄/kg dry matter, respectively. Sheep (Romney ewe hoggets) fed alfalfa silage substituted with increasing levels of corn silage (25, 50, 75 or 100%) or corn grain (25, 50 or 65% rolled corn grain) on a DM basis at a fixed DMI level (2% of BW). The results revealed that emission of CH₄/DMI increased with increasing substitution levels up to 50% with both corn silage and corn grain then decreased gradually but not than that of 100% alfalfa silage (Jonker et al., 2016).

In growing beef cattle, the effect of vegetative and mature fresh pasture forage and supplementation with maize silage or palm kernel expeller on CH₄ production (g/day) and yield (g/kg dry matter intake; DMI) was studied in growing beef cattle. No clear differences were observed in CH₄ production between feeding of vegetative or mature pasture. However, using 100% maize silage increased the CH₄ yield by 23.80%. Also, supplementation with maize silage increased CH₄ production by 10% than cattle fed mature pasture only or supplemented with palm kernel expeller (Jonker et al., 2015). These studies revealed that improving forage quality represents one of the most accessible CH₄ mitigation strategies for pasture-based systems (Bannink et al., 2016; Jonker et al., 2016; Macome et al., 2017).

Furthermore, pasture management could also affect CH₄ production. Feeding dairy cows with whole-plant corn silage at different maturity levels (25-40% dry matter) showed that increasing harvest maturity level reduced CH₄ production linearly without negatively affecting cow performance (Hatew et al., 2016). In another study, forage maturity at harvest significantly impacts CH₄ emission potential, with early cutting forages (vegetative stage) reducing emissions by up to 30% compared to mature forages (Ramin & Huhtanen, 2013). Therefore, strategic grazing management, including rotational systems that maintain forage at optimal growth stages, can further enhance these benefits while improving overall system productivity. Furthermore, increasing starch levels in the diet affect CH₄ production in cows fed diets total mixed ration of (60% grass silage and 40% concentrate on DM basis). *In situ* incubation of starch showed that CH₄ production was decreased in fast than slow and in high starch-based diets than low starch-based diet (Hatew, Podesta, et al., 2015). However, trade-offs exist, as higher-quality forages may require more intensive management and potentially higher production costs. In tropical systems, the

introduction of tannin-rich legumes like *Leucaena leucocephala* has shown particular promise, reducing CH₄ by 22% while improving protein supply (Animut et al., 2008).

3.3 Lipid supplementation

Lipid supplementation reduces enteric CH₄ emissions primarily through the biohydrogenation of unsaturated fatty acids (UFAs) in the rumen (Bayat & Shingfield, 2012). The mechanism by which UFAs (linoleic acid (C18:2) or linolenic acid (C18:3)) can control CH₄ emission is the ability of rumen bacteria to convert them into saturated fatty acids (SFAs) by incorporating hydrogen (H₂) into their carbon chains (Yang et al., 2024). This process competitively reduces the availability of H₂ for Methanogenic archaea, thereby suppressing CH₄ (CH₄) production (Caro et al., 2016). Furthermore, this mechanism differs depending on fat source, in steers grazing tallgrass-prairie alone or supplemented with whole cottonseed, bypass fat, or a supplement containing soybean oil. All fat supplemented groups had lower CH₄ production than the control group. This effect may have resulted from reduced ADF digestibility (Beck et al., 2019). Also, in grazing steers fed 1% linseed oil supplementation reduced CH₄ emissions by 38% when expressed in mg/d/kg BW (Carvalho et al., 2016). Additionally, certain lipids (e.g., medium-chain fatty acids like lauric acid, C12:0) exhibit direct antimicrobial effects on Methanogens by disrupting their cell membranes (Soliva et al., 2004). Studies indicate that for every 1% increase in dietary lipid content (up to 6–7% of dry matter intake, DMI), CH₄ yield (g CH₄/kg DMI) decreases by 5.6% on average (Martin et al., 2010). On the other hand, Cross-bred Aberdeen Angus steers fed increasing oil levels only tended to reduce in CH₄. However, the combination with nitrate supplementation could enhance the decrease of CH₄ production (Duthie et al., 2018).

In sheep, supplementation with fat had high suppression effects on CH₄ production based on meta analysis (Patra, 2014). Dietary increasing levels of macadamia cake (4.5%, 8.5%, and 14% on a dry matter basis) as a high nutritional value ingredients with reach source of lipids reducing daily production of enteric CH₄ without negatively affect the nutrient digestibility and ruminal fermentation up to inclusion levels of 14% (Takahashi et al., 2024). However, fat can be possible mitigation methods to CH₄ emission, some implication could be experienced with high fat inclusion rate, including reduce microbial attachment, altering fibrolytic bacteria, fiber degradation (Toral et al., 2009; Shinkai et al., 2012).

3.4 Concentrate feeding and starch-rich diets

Rumen microorganisms enable to digest the cellulose rich feed stuff (roughage) to VFA that can be used by the animal as a source of energy and finally converted to meat and milk, however a by-products of this process were elaborated, including hydrogen and CO₂ which can be utilized by Methanogens to produces CH₄ (Nadeem & Sufyan, 2005). Several previous studies evaluated the potential of manipulating the roughage-to-concentrate ratio to reduce the formation of gases. However, increasing non-fiber roughage or concentrate (starch) directed the rumen fermentation process toward propionate production rather than acetate (Wang et al., 2018). Propionate considers electron acceptors, in another words, acts as a hydrogen sink and competing with methanogens for available hydrogen (Wang et al., 2023).

The level of starch inclusion, fermentation rate (slow, medium, and rapid) or its form (native and gelatinized) significantly affect CH₄ production in cow or *in vivo* studies. Whereas high inclusion rate, rapid and gelatinized starch reduced CH₄ production (Hatew, Cone, et al., 2015).

The effect could also be due to the bypass of 30% of starch to the small intestine without fermentation avoiding methanogenesis in the rumen (Harmon et al., 2004).

Wang et al. (2018) reported in an *in vitro* experiment that reducing neutral detergent fiber content from 24.0 to 15.8% with maintaining other dietary ingredients at the same ration causes a 14.06% decrease in CH₄ production. In another study, increasing starch in cows diets increased total rumen VFA levels, decreased acetate production without differences in rumen pH, or ruminal CH₄ production (Darabighane et al., 2021).

Furthermore, forage-to-concentrate ratio positively affects the fermentation process in ruminants and subsequent CH₄ emissions. The increase in forage: concentrate from 68:32 to 39:61 respectively, significantly reduced CH₄ emissions by 27.2 and 13.8% in Holsteins cows and Jerseys cows, respectively (Olijhoek et al., 2018). In grazing Jersey cows on ryegrass pasture, increasing concentrate supplementation levels (0, 4, and 8 kg/cow/day) linearly decreased enteric CH₄ production without affecting VFA concentrations and ruminal pH (Van Wyngaard et al., 2018). In *in vitro* study using rumen fluid inoculum grazing cows feed on Italian rye grass and different concentrate levels (2, 5, and 8 kg/animal/day). The use of a high concentrate level increased total gas and propionate with decreased CH₄ production (Kim et al., 2018). CH₄ emission decreased by 48% in Holstein cows fed a diet with 91% concentrate (Olijhoek et al., 2022). Recently, the effect of using agriculture by-products, including spent mushroom, hempseed cake, red and green apple pomace, coffee by-products, and distiller's dried grains with soluble at a level of 100, 200 and 300 g kg⁻¹, the *in vitro* results revealed a linear decrease of gas production and CH₄ emissions. The maximum percent of CH₄ production was 33.6% with inclusion of 300 g kg⁻¹ (Xue et al., 2025).

The increasing in concentrate or starch percent in the ruminal diet represents promising mitigation approaches to CH₄ production, meanwhile this process could have some trade-offs such as ruminal acidosis (Elmhadi et al., 2022). Lambs fed diets with 25% starch or higher decreased blood pH and HCO₃ values with the potential risk of subacute acidosis (Şevket & KARSLI, 2024). Starch infusion in cow acclimated to high fiber diet decreased fecal pH as an indication of hindgut acidosis (Abeyta et al., 2023). Ruminal acidosis could be associated with ruminal microbial modulation and several health complications, including rumenitis, milk fat depression, inflammation, laminitis, and liver abscesses (Elmhadi et al., 2022).

4 Feed Additives

Feed additives are widely used in commercial ruminants production systems not only improving animal health and production performance, but also to modulate ruminal microbiota to low CH₄ emissions (Newbold & Rode, 2006). Several pathways were identified for controlling CH₄ production by feed additives including suppressing of methanogenesis or competing with substrate for methanogens (Honan et al., 2021; Sun et al., 2021). Fig. 2 illustrated complications and mitigation strategies of methane production in rumen.

4.1 Nono-feed additives

Nanotechnology is a cutting-edge technique for mitigating CH₄ emissions from ruminants. Nanoengineered materials have enhanced properties depending on the type, size, and synthesize methods, including absorption, adsorption, and cation exchange capacity (Mahler et al., 2012). These properties could increase the potential of using nano-substances in controlling enteric CH₄ emissions. Zn-nanoparticles reduced the microbial population, CH₄ production and hydrogen

sulfide in automated gas production system during 72 hours at 500 and 1000 $\mu\text{g g}^{-1}$ (Sarker et al., 2018). Furthermore, *in vitro* gas production model, the addition of Zn oxide and nano-Zn at increasing levels (20, 40, and 60 mg Zn/kg DM) significantly decreased CH_4 emissions and protozoa count at level of 20 mg normal or nano-Zn form. The increase in Zn levels (40, and 60 mg Zn/kg DM) did not add any positive effects (Riazi et al., 2019). Green-synthesized CuO and ZnO nanoparticles have been added to rumen fluid up to 20 mg/ml with using alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*) hay as the main substrate. Both nanoparticle significantly decreased CH_4 emission, protozoa colonization, *in vitro* gas production, however CuO negatively affect ruminal fermentation (Palangi et al., 2024).

The nanomodified natural adsorbents also showed a high efficiency of CH_4 mitigation. The use of nano-montmorillonite (MNM) coated with cetyltrimethylammonium bromide at a dose of 0.5 g / kg of DM significantly reduced CH_4 emission and improved *in vitro* nutrient digestion (Soltan et al., 2021). Nano-zeolite was tested compared to natural zeolite *in vitro* and *in vivo* using goats on rumen fermentation. The *in vitro* experiment indicated that both forms of zeolite have affected CH_4 emission in a linear model. In the *in vivo* experiment, both zeolite forms increased total short-chain fatty acids and butyrate concentrations and significantly decreased ammonia levels (El-Nile et al., 2021). Recently, urea-impregnated nano-zeolite was added to sheep diet, which significantly reduced CH_4 emissions in its heat activated form and significantly increased the production of acetate, propionate, butyrate, and total VFA (Kardaya et al., 2025).

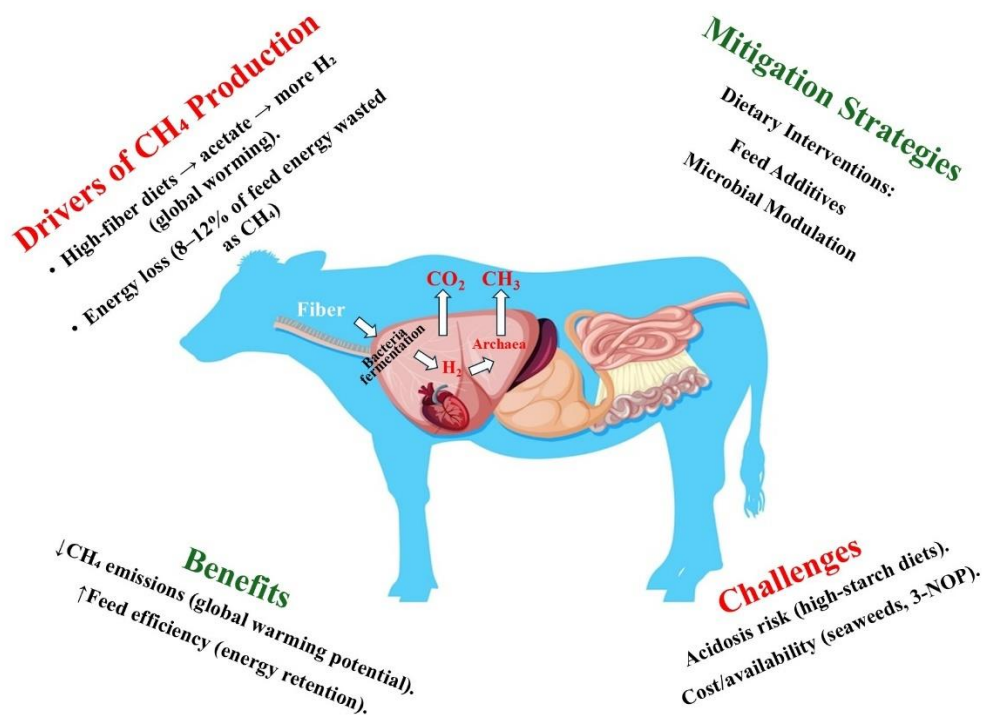


Fig. Methane production complication and dietary mitigation strategies.

Nano-encapsulation technique is widely used in the field of animal nutrition to enhance animal performance, taste and texture of the diet, protecting active components and reducing wastes (Garba & Firincioğlu, 2023). Furthermore, nano-encapsulated *Yucca schidigera* extract (0.25, 0.5, and 1 mL/g DM) was used *in vitro* experiments using bulls' ruminal fluid. All supplementation

significantly increased gas production and decreased CH₄, CH₄ conversion efficiency, CO, and H₂S emissions (Botia-Carreño et al., 2024). The nano-encapsulated threonine, methionine, tryptophan, and lysine were tested on *in vitro* gas production experiment. The use of nano-encapsulated methionine recorded the lowest significant CH₄ production and the highest metabolizable energy, while nano-encapsulated threonine reported the lowest (De Jesús et al., 2024).

4.2 CH₄ inhibitors

Several statin compounds (simvastatin, atorvastatin, and rosuvastatin) were used as a CH₄ inhibitor in an *in vitro* experiment at levels starting from 1: 100 mg/L. All tested level reduced CH₄ production and the highest effective was simvastatin and the lowest was rosuvastatin (Joch et al., 2022). The metabolites of *Monascus ruber* (mainly lovastatin) were tested as anti-methanogenic and showed a linear decreasing effect on CH₄ production (Boudra et al., 2024). Furthermore, lovastatin was examined using the rumen inoculum of sheep, goats, and cows. It showed a marked lowering effect on CH₄ emission, especially in sheep rumen, more than other tested rumen. Total VFA was not affected, but acetate and valerate were decreased (Ábrego-García et al., 2024).

3-nitrooxypropanol (3-NOP) inclusion in dairy cow total mixed ration at dose of 60 mg/kg for 15 days decreased CH₄ emission (26%), emission yield (27%), and emission intensity (29%), without any negative effects on feed efficiency or productive performance (Melgar et al., 2021). Van Wesemael et al. (2019) determined the effect of 3-NOP supplantation methods in dairy cows and found that inclusion in roughage or concentrates efficiently reduced CH₄ production by 28 and 23%, respectively.

A 1-year 3-NOP supplementation experiment was conducted using Holstein-Friesian dairy cows to identify the long-term effects of 69.8 mg of 3-NOP / kg of DM on milk production and CH₄ emission. The results indicated an overall reduction of 21% in CH₄ production; however, the effect of 3-NOP decreased over time. The yields of energy and fat and protein corrected milk increased by 6.5% compared to the control (van Gastelen et al., 2024). 3-NOP is a highly specific CH₄ inhibitor that inhibits the nickel enzyme methyl-coenzyme M reductase and disrupts CH₄ synthesis in the rumen methanogens (Duin et al., 2016).

BromochloroCH₄-cyclodextrin was also used as a dietary supplementation in steers rumen and induced an absence of Methanogenic archaeal with 4.5-times higher *Lachnospiraceae* (Matsui et al., 2020). A combination of chloroform and 9,10-anthraquinone was used as CH₄ inhibitor in the solid diets of the young calves during the first 12 weeks and was monitored for 49 weeks of rearing. The treated animal showed nearly CH₄ inhibition (90% reduction) with increasing H₂ emissions also the acetate: propionate ratio decreased, meanwhile the microbial community was not affected by treatment which means that treatment affected the microbial metabolic pathways (Cristobal-Carballo et al., 2021).

Furthermore, the addition of active carbon at a level of 0.5% reduced 30-40% of CH₄ emissions and 10% of CO₂ production associated with decreased of Methanogenic flora by 30% and increased the nonmethanogenic species (Al-Azzawi et al., 2021). A novel activated carbon-rich mineral supplement was used to mitigate at 0 - 6% DM level *in vitro* experiments using Rhodes grass hay substrate and rumen fluid from Holstein-Friesian steers. The treatment inhibits

CH₄ production up to 29.32% without negative effects on total VFA production and DM digestibility (Tahery et al., 2025).

4.3 Phytobiotic compounds

Secondary metabolites from plants could be used to mitigate gas production. The rumen-cannulated *Merino wethers* fed encapsulating *Acacia mearnsii* tannin extract showed a reduction in CH₄ production of 19% and 30% with encapsulating and crude tannin extract, respectively (Adejoro et al., 2019). The increasing in tannin in the cattle diet to 12.5 g/kg DM by including of green tea by-product significantly reduced CH₄ emission without compromising animal performance (Khoja et al., 2018). In Nellore (*Bos indicus*) and Holstein (*Bos taurus*) cows fed tannin extract at increasing levels of 0, 0.5, 1, 1.5% of dry matter. The threshold for suppression of CH₄ emissions was 0.72% of tannin supplementation, and the effect was significantly increased with increasing supplementation levels (Perna Junior et al., 2023).

The effect of tannin extract from different forage species was tested compared to rutin on gas and CH₄ production at increasing levels (10, 20, and 30 g/kg DM). The results showed that tannin causes 15% CH₄ reduction at the highest level of supplementation, while rutin did not affect its production (Verma et al., 2024). The mixture of tannin from quebracho and chestnut in individual or in combination with essential oil (EO) blends were used *in vitro*. The addition of tannin induced a reduction of ammonia production by 31% and CH₄ emission by 15% (Foggi et al., 2022).

Effect of three essential oils (sage, pine, and clove) supplementation with increasing levels (300, 600, and 900 mg/L) on *in vitro* ruminal fermentation characteristics was evaluated using rumen inoculum from three mature ewes. The gas and CH₄ production were significantly reduced with all essential oil and the best effect was reported with clove oil (Bokharaeian et al., 2023). Furthermore, garlic, thyme, clove, orange peel, mint, and cinnamon significantly reduced CH₄ and gas production *in vitro* at a level of 300 ppm (Rofiq et al., 2021). In non-pregnant female ewes fed dietary supplementation with essential oils blend (essential oils and polyphenols), bioflavonoids and chestnut tannins had lower CH₄ production by 13% than control animals (Atzori et al., 2023). Moreover, using *Pinus koraiensis* cone essential oil (PEO) at a level of 1g/kg diet reduced CH₄ production by 67% *in vitro* model based on 50:50 roughage to concentrate ratio (Choi et al., 2023).

Dietary saponin alone or in combination with nitrate and sulphate at level of 1.5% of concentrate feed significantly reduced CH₄ production in calves by 11.84, 26.78, and 38% with nitrate and sulphate, or nitrate and saponin or combination with nitrate, sulphate and saponin, respectively (Yadav et al., 2021). The saponins reach *Sesbania graniflora* pods meal extract was used in at increasing level (0, 0.2, 0.4, and 0.6%). The results indicated a significant reduction in decreased protozoal population, CH₄ emission in a dose-dependent manner (Unnawong et al., 2021). Lactating Beetal goats fed plant extract (CPE) rich in polyphenolics and saponins experienced a higher proportion of VFA and propionate with lower concentrations of acetate, CH₄ and ammonia. This effect is associated with higher production performance and animal health (Shilwant et al., 2023).

4.4 Seaweeds and algae

Algae and algae extracts were investigated to control CH₄ emission *in vivo* and *in vitro* models with suppression levels reaching 91% of emission. Total gas and CH₄ production were significantly reduced phlorotannins extracted from seaweed *Ascophyllum nodosum* in a dose-dependent manner (Wang et al., 2008). An *in vitro* experiment was carried out to evaluate the

effect of 20 tropical marine and freshwater macroalgae on gas and CH₄ production using rumen fluid from cattle fed low-quality roughage. The results indicate that all examined macroalgae induced significant reduction in gas and CH₄ production and the highest effective species are *Dictyota* and *Asparagopsis* with suppression of gas production by 53.2% and 61.8%, and CH₄ production by 92.2% and 98.9% after 72 h, respectively (Machado et al., 2014).

Increasing dietary levels of *A. taxiformis* in the sheep diet reduced total VFA production and acetate levels with increasing propionate concentrations. Therefore, it was associated by 80% reduction in CH₄ emission after 72 days of experiment (Maia et al., 2016). Using rumen fluid cannulated Holstein cows and supplanted with 0.5% *Rhodophyta* sp. extracts increased cumulative gas production with decreased CH₄ production and ciliate-associated methanogens, and improved acetate/propionate ratio (Lee et al., 2017).

In dairy cattle, red seaweeds, *A. armata*, was used as a feed additive to mitigate CH₄ production at levels of 0.5 to 1%. CH₄ production was decreased by 26.4% and 67.2% at 0.5% and 1% *A. armata* supplementation level respectively (Breanna M Roque et al., 2019). *In vitro* evaluation showed a marked reduction in CH₄ production by tropical macroalgae, *A. taxiformis*, from 38.7 mL/g DM in the control to 0.20 mL/g DM in 2% algal supplemented treatment, that represent 90% suppression effectiveness (Chagas et al., 2019). The use of red macroalgae *A. taxiformis* at dose of 0.5% significantly reduced CH₄ production in a semi-continuous *in vitro* rumen system by 95% without any negative effect on other fermentation parameters. The same study suggested that *A. taxiformis* CH₄ suppression effect could attributed to rapid metabolic alteration in rumen Methanogens to inhibit CH₄ production and extended decline in methanogen abundance (Breanna Michell Roque et al., 2019). The main mode of action of seaweeds CH₄ inhibition is due to the presence of bromoform compound which disrupts vitamin B₁₂-dependent enzymes in Methanogens, and blocking the final step of CH₄ synthesis (Glasson et al., 2022).

5 Conclusion

This review highlighted the potential of different modern nutritional strategies to mitigate enteric methane emission. Among the reviewed strategies, insect meal as a novel feedstuff has potential methane mitigating effects. However, methane inhibitors that include feed additives (nanomaterials, statins, bromochloromethan, 3-NOP, photobiotics, and seaweed) have a promising effect in somewhat blocking methane production. As the world seeks sustainable production of animal protein, the reduction of methane could be of prime importance for producers, scientists, and policymakers to achieve the SDGs goals. Integrated approaches that combine feeding management, customized feed additives and precision feeding may offer sustainable pathways for CH₄ reduction without compromising animal performance.

Authors Contribution:

Sabrin A. Morshedy: Conceptualization, Investigation, Software, Methodology, Validation, Formal analysis, Writing-Original Draft, Writing-Review & Editing

Ethical approval:

Not applicable.

Informed consent:

Not applicable.

Conflict of interest statement

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Data availability statement

The data that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

6 References

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