

Relative Macronutrient Intake among Ethiopian Sport Academy Sprint Athletes: A Pre-Competition Analysis

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Abstract: This study evaluated the daily macronutrient intake of elite Ethiopian sprint athletes during a pre-competition training phase, analysing their consumption patterns with international sports nutrition guidelines. Direct dietary record and observational study involved 58 national-level sprinters (aged 15–21), during which their dietary intake was documented through weighed food records and validated 24-hour recalls over five consecutive days. The estimation of total energy expenditure (TEE) was conducted using the Schofield Equation, which was modified according to sprint-specific physical activity levels (PALs). Macronutrient intake was presented in grams per kilogram of body weight per day (g/kg/day). The results indicated that carbohydrate intake adhered to recommendations on Days 1, 3, and 4, whereas protein intake was adequate only on Days 2 and 5. Fat intake remained within the optimal range on all days except Day 1. The findings highlight the variability in dietary patterns and the need for customised nutritional education and periodisation for sprint athletes in Ethiopia.

Keywords: sports nutrition, sprint athletes, carbohydrate intake, protein intake, fat intake, Ethiopia

RELATIVE MACRONUTRIENT INTAKE OF ETHIOPIAN SPORTS ACADEMY SPRINT ATHLETES



Objectives

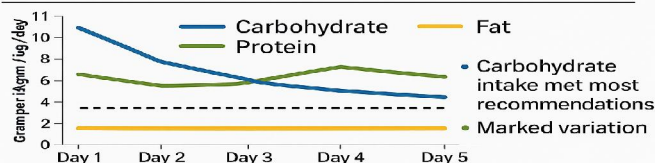
To assess whether sprinters consume recommended amounts of carbohydrates, protein, and fat during pre-competition training

Methods

58 elite sprint runners
5-day dietary assessment
Food records & 24-hour recalls

Results

- Carbohydrate intake met most recommendations
- Protein intake was below recommendations
- Marked variation was seen across days



Conclusion

Sprint athletes' protein intake is below optimal, indicating the need for personalized nutrition strategies

