USABILITY OF FEED MILL SWEEPINGS AS A SUBSTITUTE TO COMMERCIALLY FORMULATED FEED IN GIFT TILAPIA CULTURE

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Abstract: Feed mill sweepings (FMS) were used as the substitute of the commercially formulated feed (FF) for rearing GIFT Tilapia. The average moisture, crude protein, fiber and carbohydrate, fat and ash content of the FMS were 13.23\%, 34.92\%, 26.07\%, 5.96\% and 19.80\% respectively. For FF these values were 14.83\%, 28.49\%, 31.57\%, 8.71\% and 16.41\% respectively. No significant differences was observed in the proximate biochemical composition between FMS and FF. Average total weight gain in 60 days was observed to be 47.22 g and 53.45 g for FMS and FF respectively with no significant difference. The mean instantaneous growth rate per day was found 4.15±0.96\% for FMS and 4.32±1.03\% for FF respectively. The survival rate was 83\% for FMS and 84\% for FF respectively. A comparatively lower FCR that achieved with FMS (1.91) over the FF (1.97) suggested that feed mill sweepings can be used as a substitute to formulated feed in GIFT tilapia culture.

Key words: feed mill sweepings, formulated feed, GIFT tilapia, growth, FCR

Introduction

GIFT (Genetically Improved Farmed Tilapia), a Nile tilapia strain belongs to the genera \textit{Oreochromis}, was invented by ICLARM (International Center for Living and Aquatic Resource Management) (Dey \textit{et al}., 2000) through a neutral technology that requires small quantity of feed and fertilizer and returns maximum net benefits in comparison to normal strain (Acosta \textit{et al}., 2001). It was brought from the Philippines to Bangladesh in 1994. It is a mouth breeder and easily cultivable in large or small ponds. Growth of GIFT tilapia is 50–60\% higher than other tilapia (Mazid, 2002). It attains marketable size of 300-400 g within 3–4 months. It has become a high demand fish in Asian markets due to its superior quality i.e. better taste, higher growth rate, lower FCR (Feed Consumption Ratio) and short culture period in comparison to other strains or species of tilapia (Acosta \textit{et al}., 2001).

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DOI: https://doi.org/10.53808/KUS.2007.8.2.0734-L
Supplementary feeds provide additional nutrients to cultivable fish when natural productivity of pond water becomes insufficient for the desired growth. Therefore, use of supplemental feed is essential in commercial aquaculture to ensure net return (Diana, et al., 1994). Feed constitute the largest single cost item in aquaculture which is usually about 40–60% to the total cost (Mitra et al., 2005).

Formulated feed (FF) is the specially prescribed supplemented feed for a specific species of fish. Feed requirement varies by species, size, life stages and stocking density. On the basis of requirements, different nutrients like carbohydrate, protein, lipid, fat, vitamin, and minerals etc. are added in a certain ratio to meet nutritional requirement of the selected fish species.

Feed mill sweepings (FMS) are the residue or feed mill dust produced during the production of formulated feed (FF) in factories. It contains ingredients (e.g. trash fish, soybean meal, oil seed, oil cake etc.) more or less similar to that of FF. During the production of FF a bulk of FMS is also produced as by product. Considering it as a powdery waste, it is usually dumped without any consideration of its proper utilization. It is expected that FMS contains reasonable amount of proteins, carbohydrates, ashes with low amount of moisture, fat and vitamin. Therefore, FMS may give a growth rate similar to that of FF.

Aquaculture in Bangladesh has increased many folds over the last two decades to meet the protein requirement of her growing population. Fish farming has become one of the most profitable businesses across the country. Therefore, the demand for supplemental fish feed has increased significantly. In order to meet the growing demand, a number of fish and shrimp feed industries have been established in the country over the last decade. However, due to high price of the FF the majority of the small and marginal fish farmers can not provide it in their ponds. In this context, FMS would be a good alternative to poor fish farmer who can collect it free or at a very low cost. Keeping this view in mind, the present study was carried out with the following objectives – (i) to compare the biochemical composition of FF and FMS, and (ii) to compare the growth performance of GIFT tilapia using the FF and FMS.

Materials and Methods

The experiment was conducted over a period of nine months from September 2003 to May 2004 in 6 earthen ponds test the performance of FMS as replacement of FF on the weight gain, growth rate and FCR of GIFT tilapia in two treatments with 3 replications. The selected ponds were dewatered and dried for 7 days. After liming at a rate of 250 kg ha⁻¹ (Uddin, 2007) ponds were filled with rain water. One meter water level in the experimental ponds was maintained through a control inlet and outlet system.

Prior to stocking fry in the ponds the pH, DO and temperature of pond water were recorded following the standard methods of APHA (Anon, 1976; Bardach et al., 1972). The same parameters were recorded at each sampling date after stocking at 15 days interval up to 60 days of experimental periods.

Immediately after collection of the GIFT fry, initial average weight of the individual fry was measured nearest to 0.01 g with an electronic single pan balance. Fries were acclimatized for two
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hours prior to stock in the experimental ponds at a density of 7 individuals m\(^{-2}\) and reared for two successive months. Total weight gain, growth rate and FCR of the experimental fish with 2 feeds were measured at every 15 days after stocking. FMS was used as test feed (T\(_1\)) and a commercial FF was used as control (T\(_2\)). Both the FMS and FF were collected from the same fish feed industry.

**Experimental design**

| Parameters               | Description |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Test species:            | GIFT tilapia. |
| Test feeds:              | Treatment 1 (T\(_1\)): Feed mill sweepings (FMS). |
|                          | Treatment 2 (T\(_2\)): Formulated feed (FF). |
| No. of ponds used:       | Treatment 1 (T\(_1\)): 3 ponds (P\(_1\) – P\(_3\)). |
|                          | Treatment 2 (T\(_2\)): 3 ponds (P\(_4\) – P\(_6\)). |
| Pond size and depth:     | 30 m\(^2\) and 1 m respectively. |
| Stocking density:        | 7 Individual m\(^{-2}\). |
| Feeding rate:            | 12% of fish biomass day\(^{-1}\) in 2 rations. |
| Feeding time:            | Morning (8 am; 6%); Afternoon (4 pm; 6%). |
| Fish parameter tested:   | Weight gain, growth rate and FCR. |
| Culture period:          | 60 days. |
| Sampling period:         | 2 weeks interval from stocking date. |

* Results were compared at 5% level of significance.

The proximate biochemical composition (protein, fiber and carbohydrate, fat, moisture and ash) was estimated for both the FMS and FF following Nabi *et al.* (2001).

Both the feed were given every day in the morning and afternoon at a rate of 12% biomass of the test fish throughout the rearing period. Feed was given through spreading on the surface water of the ponds.

The growth performance was monitored by measuring the weight of sixty (60) individual randomly for each pond. Specific growth rate was calculated using the following formula (Alam, 1990):

\[
SGR = \frac{\ln W_2 - \ln W_1}{T_2 - T_1} \times 100 \\
\]

Where \(W_1\) & \(W_2\) are the body weight in gram at time \(T_1\) and \(T_2\) respectively and were expressed as percentage per 15 days.

Feed conversion ratio (FCR) i.e. the efficiency of each feed was determined by measuring the amount of feed used to produce a unit of fish following the formula:

\[
F.C.R = \frac{\text{Dry wt. of feed used}}{\text{Wet wt. gain (fish)}} \quad (\text{New, 1987})
\]

The survival rate was calculated using the following formula:

\[
\text{Survival Rate} = \frac{\text{total number of species harvested at the end}}{\text{total number of species stocked at the beginning}} \times 100\%
\]

**Statistical analysis:** To compare proximate biochemical composition of two feeds student’s ‘\(t\)’ test was applied (Gupta, 1997). Similar statistical test was performed to test significant difference between FMS and FF in terms of absolute weight gain, growth rate and FCR in GIFT tilapia.
Results

Among the water quality parameters in six experimental ponds, DO varied from 7.02±0.92 to 7.23±0.89 mg l⁻¹, water temperature varied from 25.75±1.92 to 29.25±1.95 °C and pH varied from 6.37±0.21 to 6.75±0.43 during the rearing period. Water quality parameters between the two treatments did not show any significant difference (Table 1).

The moisture, crude protein, fiber plus carbohydrate, fat and ash content of FMS were found to be 13.23%, 34.92%, 26.07%, 5.96% and 19.80% respectively. While in FF these values were 14.83%, 28.49%, 31.57%, 8.71% and 16.41% respectively. The crude protein and ash content were higher in FMS (Fig. 1). However, no significant differences in the proximate composition were observed between FMS and FF.

Results of feeding trials with FMS (T1) and FF (T2) are shown in Table 2. The initial average weight of the fingerlings in T1 and T2 was recorded at 1.5±0.23 g and 1.5±0.29 g respectively. After 60 days of experiment, mean final weight of the GIFT tilapia was 18.14±0.17 g and 20.08±0.55 g in T1 and T2 respectively. Final total weight of the biomass of each pond was found to be 3011±55.61 g in T1 and 3372±41.62 g in T2 (Table 2). The FCR in T1 and T2 were found to be 1.91 and 1.97 respectively (Table 3).

Table 1. Water quality parameters in different treatments.

| Values | DO | pH | Temperature °C |
|--------|----|----|----------------|
|        | T1 | T2 | T1 | T2 | T1 | T2 |
| Min    | 5.9 | 6.3 | 6  | 6  | 23 | 27 |
| Max    | 8.3 | 8.5 | 6.5 | 7  | 28 | 32 |
| Mean   | 7.02±0.92 | 7.23±0.89 | 6.37±0.21 | 6.75±0.43 | 25.75±1.92 | 29.25±1.95 |
| SD     | ±0.92 | ±0.89 | ±0.21 | ±0.43 | ±0.192 | ±0.195 |

Table 2. Results of feeding trials with formulated feed T2 and feed will sweepings T1*.

| Days | Treatment | T1 | T2 | T1 | T2 | T1 | T2 | T1 | T2 | T1 | T2 | T1 | T2 |
|------|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|      | Average individual weight (g) | ±0.04 | ±0.04 | ±0.18 | ±0.18 | ±0.32 | ±0.32 | ±0.26 | ±0.26 | ±0.17 | ±0.17 | ±0.55 | ±0.55 |
|      | Individual weight gain (g) | 0.78 | 0.78 | 2.54 | 2.54 | 5.7 | 5.7 | 6.36 | 6.36 | 7.82 | 7.82 | 8.14 | 8.14 |
|      | Total weight gain (g) | ±0.31 | ±0.31 | ±39.62 | ±39.62 | ±61.24 | ±61.24 | ±85.55 | ±85.55 | ±131.87 | ±131.87 | ±47.22 | ±47.22 |
|       | Total biomass weight (g) | 424 | 424 | 809 | 809 | 992 | 992 | 1776 | 1776 | 2084 | 2084 | 3011 | 3011 |
|       | Total weight gain per day (g) | ±4.81 | ±4.81 | ±37.48 | ±37.48 | ±173.2 | ±173.2 | ±106.99 | ±106.99 | ±53.63 | ±53.63 | ±41.62 | ±41.62 |
|       | Instantaneous growth rate (%) | ±0.28 | ±0.28 | ±1.73 | ±1.73 | ±5.89 | ±5.89 | ±3.76 | ±3.76 | ±0.37 | ±0.37 | ±1.03 | ±1.03 |

*During stocking initial average weight per species was 1.5±0.23 g and 1.5±0.29 g in T1 and T2 respectively.

Total weight gain per day (g) per phase using two types of feed has been shown in Table 2 (Fig. 2). The mean of the total weight gain per day in T1 and T2 were found to be 47.22±35.00 g and 53.45±35.97 g respectively (Table 2). No significant difference was observed (p>0.05) in the mean of the total weight gain per day per phase between two treatments.

No significant difference was observed in average body weight between the two feed treatments (Fig. 3). Similar result was also noticed for the specific growth rate using two feed treatments in experimental fish (Table 2; Fig. 4).
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Higher survival rate was observed in case of FF (84%) when compared to the survival rate using FMS (83%) (Table 5). The FCR values for FMS and FF were found to be 1.91 and 1.97 respectively which showed a better FCR for FMS in comparison to FF (Table 5).
Discussion

There was no significant difference between the proximate biochemical compositions of FMS and FF used in this experiment. Halver (1989) proposed that, in general, a fish feed must contain a proximate composition at moisture between 11% and 13%, protein between 28% and 32% and ash between 15% and 18%. The biochemical compositions for both types of the feeds used in the present study were found within the suggested range (Halver, 1989). However, the ash content in the FMS (19.79%) was a bit higher than that of required level. This may be due to the presence of considerable amount of other dust particle in the FMS.

Hysmith et al. (1972) suggested that feeds containing either ‘low protein-high energy’ or ‘high protein-low energy’ gave better growth rate. Both types of feeds used were in the category of ‘high protein-low energy’ diet and thus a better growth rate was observed with both types of feeds in the present study.

Fish growth achieved with both the FMS and FF was found satisfactory in the present study. After 60 days the individual average weight of Tilapia fish in FMS and FF was found to be 18.02±3.0 g and 20.15±4.05 g respectively. Wane (2001) reported an average weight of 21.92 g in 58 days with standard formulated fish feed in GIFT tilapia. This result is similar to that of present investigation. An increased trend in growth rate confirms that both the feeds were nutritionally suitable for the GIFT tilapia. Statistical analysis of growth in terms of average weight increase and specific rate of growth between two feed treatments showed no significant difference.

According to Halver (1989) good quality feed gives an overall FCR value at ≤2 for common cultivable fish species. In the present study, the FCR for FMS was 1.91 while the value for FF was 1.97. Both the values found in the present study were very near to the values suggested by Halver (1989). On the other hand, present FCR values (1.91-1.97) were higher than the FCR value (1.27) for the same strain (GIFT tilapia) cultured in an intensive system (Ridha, 2006). However, during the present study FMS showed comparatively good FCR (1.91) than that of FF (1.97). On the other hand, the survival rate using FF was a bit higher compared to FMS which may be due to the high ash content in the feed mill sweepings.

Conclusion

FMS (feed mill sweepings) can be used as a diet of GIFT tilapia in replacement of high value FF (formulated feed) as they (FMS vs. FF) produced insignificant variation in mean biomass, growth rate and FCR. However, further investigation is needed with 120 days trial using both larvae and juvenile fish to establish the feed mill sweepings as a standard diet for GIFT tilapia. Thus, it may be concluded that apart from developing different feeding strategies, replacement of high value fish feed with low cost diet like FMS can lead to a significant savings in feed cost especially for the poor fish farmers of rural Bangladesh.
Islam, M.S.; Kamal, M.A.H.M.; Mustafa, M.G.; Rashed-Un-Nabi, M. and Kamal, D. 2007. Usability of feed mill sweepings as a substitute to commercially formulated feed in gift tilapia culture. *Khulna University Studies*, 8(2): 261-267.

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