Breeding And Culture of Snakehead Fish

THE SOLUTION

This innovation involves the standardization and evaluation of the breeding and seed production of the economically important native snakehead fish. This will hopefully make up for the lack of commercial farming of snakehead fish in Malaysia, which is due to the lack of knowledge of their feeding and breeding techniques among the fish farmers and there is no seed supply center anywhere established for breeding in Malaysia.

Some of the parameters that have been standardized include:

- Feed management technology
- Seed production
- Physiology optimization
- Optimization of environmental conditions

Snakeheads have long been favored food fishes in India and many parts of Asia, particularly southeastern Asia. Overall prices have been steadily increasing in the past 40 years.

In 1977, market prices in Taiwan were USD2.50/kg and USD1.00/kg in Hong Kong. In the late 80’s, prices in Singapore reached SGD20/kg. In Bangladesh, aquaculture farming of snakehead fish amounts to 71,583 metric tonnes, or 3.4% of the total fish production.

In Malaysia, the current average price for snakehead fish is approximately RM20/kg. The increased demand for this fish has been steadily driving prices up, which translates to a good opportunity for those seeking to venture into snakehead farming.

WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

The Malaysian striped snakehead (Channa striatus) is a highly priced (RM20/kg) freshwater fish. Besides palatable flesh and fewer intramuscular spines, the fish plays an important role in wound healing, due to the presence of fatty acids like prostaglandin and thromboxin. Snakehead fish thus have a huge market potential in Malaysia.

A group of researchers have developed a technology for the breeding and seed production of this economically important native snakehead fish. The induced breeding techniques have been evaluated and standardized and can thus be easily adopted by any aquaculture entrepreneur in Malaysia.

COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE

- Local feed manufacturing companies can adopt the feeding protocol and management techniques and recommend the technologies to their regular customers and snakehead fish farmers.
- Local fish farmers can get technical assistance from the research team for snakehead culture and feed formulation and feed management techniques.
- Feed management technology in earthen pond culture and techniques of seed production of snakehead will be transferred to local fish farmers and entrepreneurs by conducting training programmes.