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FEED TYPE AND FEEDING FREQUENCY ON THE CANNIBALISM OF *Pangasius sutchi*

K.R.S. Chathuranga¹, E.D.M. Epasinghe², H.M.P. Kithsiri²,
W.A.D. Nayananjali¹, R.H.G.R. Wathsala¹

¹Department of Agricultural Systems, Faculty of Agriculture, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka, Puliyankulama, Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka.

²Inland Aquatic Resources and Aquaculture Division (IARAD), National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA) of Sri Lanka, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The aquarium fish industry in Sri Lanka has become a valuable foreign exchange earner during the past few years. Among the ornamental fish species, *Pangasius sutchi* is one of the popular fish species. However, in their early larval stage, they show cannibalistic behavior which leads to reduction of more than 90% of the population resulting higher economical losses. The experiment was conducted as a Completely Randomized Design (CRD) in 2 factor factorial arrangement with three replicates to evaluate the effect of feed type (*Artemia* and *Moina*) and feeding frequencies (1 hr, 2 hr and 3 hr) on survival and growth rate of *Pangasius sutchi* larvae. Tank with 50 larvae was considered as an experimental unit and each tank was randomly assigned to one of the treatments. Survival rate and body weight gain in larvae were recorded and statistically analyzed with SAS. Interaction between feed and frequency was significant ($p < 0.05$) on survival rate. Cannibalism has been significantly reduced ($p < 0.05$) in *Artemia* fed larvae than the *Moina* fed larvae. Further, hourly feeding also reduced the cannibalism than the other two feeding frequencies ($p < 0.05$). The highest mean survival rate was recorded in hourly feeding of *Artemia* whereas lowest was resulted in feeding *Moina* in two hour interval. Hence, it can be concluded that feeding *Artemia* at one hour frequency is the best combination of feed type and the feeding frequency to reduce the cannibalism of *Pangasius sutchi* larvae.

Key words: *Artemia*, Cannibalism, Feeding frequency, *Moina*, *Pangasius sutchi*

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