

PRODUCTIVE PERFORMANCE OF *OREOCHROMIS NILOTICUS* UNDER DIFFERENT NUTRITIONAL AND AQUACULTURE SYSTEMS

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Abstract

This work was conducted in the region of Baallwa, Waadi El-Mollak, Ismailia, Egypt, to investigate the effect of organic plus inorganic fertilizers and artificial diets on the productive performance of *Oreochromis niloticus* under Egyptian conditions. *Oreochromis niloticus* fingerlings were stocked at a rate of two fish/m³ in ten earthen ponds (60m³ total area/ each). Five treatments with two replicates were applied as follow: The 1st treatment was fed only pelleted feed (25% protein) where the daily allowances of the fish was calculated as 4.5% of fish biomass/day at (3 to 10 g/fish), 3.5% of fish biomass / day at (10 to 50 g/fish), 2.9% of fish biomass/day at (50 to 100 g/fish), 2.5% of fish biomass at (100 to 250 g/fish), 2.2% of fish biomass at (> 250 g /fish). The pond of the 2nd treatment was treated by poultry manure and urea plus super phosphate at a rate of (1.5 kg poultry manure + 200 g urea + 400g triple super phosphate /pond/2weeks) till the end of the experimental period (17 weeks) without artificial feeds. The 3rd treatment was fertilized by the same regime in the 2nd treatment for only the first month of the experimental period, followed by pelleted diet regime similar to that of the 1st treatment. The 4th treatment was treated for only two months by fertilizers followed by two months artificial feed. The 5th treatment was treated by poultry manure and urea plus super phosphate during the first 90 days of the experimental period, followed by pelleted feed till the end of the experimental period. Averages of final body weight for the above 5 mentioned treatments were 308.8- 178.8- 292.4- 234.1 and 202.3 g/fish, respectively. Differences among final body weights were significant (P<0.01). Averages of total yield for the same treatments were 36.12, 21.44, 34.44, 28.09 and 24.28 kg/pond, respectively. The highest feed conversion value (the worst) was recorded by treatment 1 (1.23 g feed/ g gain) while the lowest value (the best) was in treatment 5 (0.62 g feed/ g gain) and differences between treatments were significant (P<0.01). The highest protein efficiency ratio was obtained by treatment 5, while the lowest value was obtained by treatment 1. The highest protein productive value was in treatment 5 while the lowest was regarded in treatment 1. The statistical analysis of the results showed that the differences between the treatments were significant (P<0.01). The economical study showed that treatment 1 gave the highest total income and net return followed in descending order by treatments (3, 4, 5 and 2), respectively.

Keywords: Organic and inorganic fertilizers regime, Artificial feed, Tilapia

INTRODUCTION

Animal manures have been used as fertilizers in fish production throughout the world, especially in tropical and subtropical regions (Lovshin *et al* 1974; Miller, 1975; Wohlfarth and Schroeder, 1979). Manures stimulate both primary and secondary productivity (Rappaport *et al* 1977; Schroeder, 1978; Noriega-Curtis, 1979). Chicken litter has been used successfully as an organic fertilizer for tilapia production in many parts of the world (Miller, 1975; Lovshin, 1977; Rappaport and Sarig, 1978 and Green *et al* 1989). Nitrogen and phosphorus applied to ponds are assimilated directly by phytoplankton, increasing primary productivity (Hepher, 1962 and Boyd, 1976), which tilapia utilize efficiently for growth (Boyd, 1976 and Almazan and Boyd, 1978). Animal manures, besides containing nitrogen and phosphorus, stimulate heterotrophic production, thus increasing tilapia production in ponds (Schroeder, 1974, 1978, 1980; Wohlfarth and Schroeder, 1979). Green *et al* (1989), reported that the final weight of fish was significantly greater on chicken litter than on the dairy cow manure and chemical fertilizer treatments.

The objective of this study was to investigate the effect of different combinations between organic, inorganic fertilizers and artificial diets on the growth performance, feed efficiency and production cost of *Oreochromis niloticus* reared in earthen ponds.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This work was conducted in the region of Baallwa- Wadi EL-Mollak- Ismailia- Egypt to investigate the effect of organic plus inorganic fertilizers and artificial feeding on growth performance of *Oreochromis niloticus* under Egyptian conditions. Ten earthen rectangular ponds (20x3x1m) as length, width and depth, respectively, were used. The experimental ponds were supplied with freshwater from Ismailia canal. The water exchange rate was 15% of the total pond area/day. *Oreochromis niloticus* fingerlings used in this experiment were of an average initial weight of 4 g. All experimental earthen ponds used in this study were stocked by 120 of Nile tilapia fingerlings/pond.

The experimental period lasted 4 months from 1st of July to the 4th of November 2004. Five treatments (two replicates /each) were designed as follow:

Treatment1 (artificial diet only).

Fish in this treatment were fed pelleted diet all over the experimental period (25% CP), the fish diet was offered at a rate of 4.5% of tilapia biomass at weight (5 to 10 g/fish), 3.5% at weight (10 to 50 g/ fish), 2.9% at weight (50 to 100 g/fish), 2.5% at weight

(100 to 250 g/fish), 2.2% at weight (> 250/fish) in each pond to the end of the experiment.

Treatment 2 (fertilization only)

Poultry manure plus triple super phosphate and urea were added at a rate of (1.5 kg poultry manure + 400g triple super phosphate + 200 g urea/ pond/ biweekly) for the whole period.

Treatment 3 (1month fertilization + 3 months artificial diet)

Poultry manure plus triple super phosphate and urea were added at a rate of (1.5 kg poultry manure + 400g triple super phosphate + 200 g urea/ pond / biweekly) for the first 30 days followed by artificial diet with the same rates used in treatment 1.

Treatment 4 (2months fertilization + 2 months artificial diet)

Poultry manure plus triple super phosphate and urea were added at a rate of (1.5 kg poultry manure + 400g triple super phosphate + 200 g urea/ pond / biweekly) for the first 2 months then added artificial diets for the last 2 months.

Treatment 5 (3 months fertilization + 1 month artificial diet)

Poultry manure plus triple super phosphate and urea were added at a rate of (1.5 kg poultry manure + 400g triple super phosphate + 200 g urea/ pond / biweekly) for the first 3 months then artificial diets were added in the last month of the experiment. The quantities of applied organic and inorganic fertilizers during the whole experimental period are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Quantities of organic and inorganic fertilizers used during the experimental period:

<i>Treatments</i>	Organic fertilization (Kg/ponds)	Inorganic fertilization (g/ponds)	
		Super phosphate	Urea
Treatment2	12	3200	1600
Treatment3	9	2400	1200
Treatment4	6	1600	800
Treatment5	3	800	400

Also amount of artificial feeds for each treatment group are presented in Table (2), while the proximate analysis of poultry manure and the diet are given in Table (3).

Random samples of fish (20 fish/ treatment) were weighed every two weeks during the whole experimental period. Individual body weight and length of fish were recorded for each sample, thereafter the fish were returned to their experimental ponds.

According to the data of body weight and length, the following parameters were estimated:

Specific growth rate (SGR)

Specific growth rate was calculated according to Jauncey and Rose (1982).

$$\text{SGR} = (\text{Ln wt}_2 - \text{Ln wt}_1) \times 100/t$$

Where:

wt₁ = first fish weight in grams.

wt₂ = following fish weight in grams.

t = period in day.

$$\text{Ln} = (\log 10x)^{3.303}$$

Average daily gain (ADG)

Daily gain was estimated according to the following formula:

$$\text{ADG} = (\text{Wt}_2 - \text{Wt}_1) / t$$

Condition factor (K)

The condition factor value was calculated according to Lagler (1959).

$$K = [\text{weight (g)} / \text{length}^3 \text{ (cm)}] \times 100$$

Table 2. Quantities of artificial feed used during the experimental period.

Treatments	2 nd week	4 th week	6 th week	8 th week	10 th week	12 th week	14 th week	17 th week
	kg/pond	kg/pond	kg/pond	kg/pond	kg/pond	kg/pond	kg/pond	kg/pond
Treatment 1	0.324	0.763	2.117	3.303	5.049	7.832	9.907	15.768
Treatment 3	--	--	1.796	2.662	4.627	7.197	9.254	10.733
Treatment 4	--	--	--	--	3.409	4.694	6.746	8.082
Treatment 5	--	--	--	--	--	--	6.737	8.087

Table 3. Chemical analysis of poultry manure and artificial feeds on dry matter basis

Item	Poultry manure	Artificial feeds
Dry matter (DM%)	85.98	91.41
Organic matter (OM%)	61.36	80.26
Crud protein (CP%)	25.00	27.45
Ether extract (EE%)	1.74	4.10
Crud fiber (CF%)	16.36	6.78
Nitrogen free extract (NFE%)	18.26	41.93
Ash%	38.64	19.74

Feed conversion ratio

$$F.C.R = \frac{\text{Total feed consumption (g)}}{\text{Final body weight (g)} - \text{initial body weight (g)}}$$

Protein efficiency ratio

$$P.E.R = \frac{\text{Final body weight(g)} - \text{Initial body weight(g)}}{\text{Protein intake(g)}}$$

Protein productive value

$$P.P.V = \frac{\text{Protein retained intissue (g)}}{\text{Protein intake (g)}} \times 100$$

Economical study

At the end of the experiment an economical study has been conducted to determine the cost of feed to produce one kg fish wet weight.

Water quality

Water pH was measured by using pH meter (model 68 Engineered System and Designs). Water dissolved oxygen and temperature were measured daily at 6.00 o'clock a.m. by oxygen meter (WPA 20 Scientific Instrument). Also water samples were taken weekly for analysis of ammonia, nitrate and nitrite. Analytical methods were carried out according to the American Public Health Association (ADHA, 1992).

Statistical analysis

The statistical analysis was applied according to Steel and Torrie (1980) on the collected data using a SAS program (1998). Differences between means were tested for significance according to Duncan's multiple rang test (Duncan, 1955). The following model was used to analyze the obtained data:

$$Y_{ij} = \mu + T_i + e_{ij}$$

Where:

Y_{ij} = observation.

μ = the overall mean.

T_i = the effect of treatment.

e_{ij} = random error.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**Fish growth and feed utilization performance**

Fish groups fed the artificial diet only (treatment 1) showed the highest significant finale body weights ($P < 0.01$) followed in descending order by treatments 3, 4, 5 and 2 (308.8, 292.4, 234.1, 202.3 and 178.8 g), respectively (Table 4). It seems that with decreasing artificial feed in the feeding regime the growth performance of tilapia fish was affected negatively. Ramdan *et al* (2001) reported that fish reared on artificial ration gave higher harvest weight than those reared in ponds with inorganic

treatments. Green (1992) concluded that the chicken manure can replace 100% of pelleted supplemental feed without significant effects on the growth of tilapia during the first 60 days of the culture. This is in agreement with the results obtained in the present study.

Average fish final length at the end of the experimental period were found to follow the same order ($P < 0.01$) of final body weight and being 23.5, 23.0, 21.8, 21.0 and 19.7cm, respectively. These results are in accordance with those obtained by Hafez (1991), who found a strong correlation between body weight and body length for tilapia, mullet and carp fish. Oren (1981) revealed that fluctuations in ponds for fish growth (length and weight) are affected by different factors such as feeding regime, population density and environmental conditions.

As it is clear from Table (4) the highest averages daily gain and SGR were recorded by treatment 1 (2.54 and 3.62%/ day, respectively) followed by treatments 3,4 and 5, while the lowest values (1.46 and 3.16%/day, respectively) were found in the group fed no artificial feed (treatment 2). Abdel- Rahman *et al* (2003) reported that SGR for *O. niloticus* during the fortnight periods of the experiment were significantly higher for pelleted and mash treatments rather than chicken manure and cow manure treatments.

According to Schroeder (1974, 1978, and 1980) and Wholfarth and Schroeder (1979) the increases in daily gain, body weight and fish yield in the chicken litter treatment are due to: 1- releasing N and P from chicken litter, 2- improvement of the biological conditions of the pond's water, 3- abundance of phytoplankton as important feed for the zooplankton and fish, and 4- chicken litter contained organic matter that used as a food source, all these factors improve the daily gain, average body weight, survival rate and fish yield. The organic nutrients sources were more productively than inorganic sources (Schroeder, 1975 a and b). Noriega-Curtis, 1979).

Growth in the fish can be readily monitored by measuring the increase of fish weight and length. Other parameters which may be used as an index of growth is the condition factor, which provide a measure of "fatness" of fish and food conversion efficiency (Power, 1990). Condition factor also measures the "plumpness" or "robustness" of fish, and are easily calculated from routinely collected length-weight data. Condition factor is frequently assumed to reflect not only characteristics of fish such as health, reproductive state and growth, but also characteristics of the environment such as water quality and prey availability (Liao *et al* 1995). Condition factor of fish is essentially a measure of relative bone growth. The growth responses of these tissues to the dietary treatments may be reflected by changes in condition factor (Ostrowski and Garling, 1988).

Table 4. Average of growth and feed utilization parameters at the end of the experimental period

Parameters	Treatments					± SD
	Treatment	Treatment 2	Treatment 3	Treatment	Treatment 5	
	1			4		
Initial body weight (g/fish)	3.99	4.02	4.1	3.99	4.01	0.102
Final body weight (g/fish)	308.8 ^a	178.8 ^e	292.4 ^b	234.1 ^c	202.3 ^d	1.053
Average daily gain (g/day)	2.54 ^a	1.46 ^e	2.41 ^b	1.91 ^c	1.65 ^d	0.060
Specific growth rate (%/day)	3.62 ^a	3.16 ^e	3.56 ^b	3.39 ^c	3.27 ^d	0.027
Final body length (cm/fish)	23.5 ^a	19.7 ^c	23.0 ^a	21.8 ^b	21.0 ^c	0.172
Condition factor	2.38 ^a	2.34 ^a	2.4 ^a	2.26 ^b	2.18 ^c	0.0004
Total yield (kg/pond)	36.12 ^a	21.44 ^e	34.44 ^b	28.09 ^c	24.28 ^d	0.025
Total yield (kg/Fadden)	2528.4 ^a	1500.8 ^e	2410.8 ^b	1966.3 ^c	1699.6 ^d	0.05
Feed conversion ratio (g feed/ gain)	1.23 ^a	-	1.05 ^b	0.83 ^c	0.62 ^d	0.009
Protein efficiency ratio	3.54 ^b	-	4.16 ^a	5.25 ^a	7.0 ^c	0.026
Protein Productive value (%)	44.81 ^d	-	60.88 ^c	88.91 ^b	121.21 ^a	0.151

Averages of condition factor values for the experimental treatments during the experiment are presented in Table (4). At the end of the experiment the average of condition factor values for treatments (1, 2, 3, 4 and 5) were 2.38, 2.34, 2.4, 2.26 and 2.18, respectively. The statistical analysis of the results showed that the treatment 3 had significantly ($p < 0.01$) the highest K value followed by treatments (1, 2, 4 and 5), respectively. Stickney *et al* (1979), reported that growth of tilapia was rapid in ponds had a history of high manuring rate.

Table (4) showed that averages of total fish yield at the end of the experimental period for treatments (1, 2, 3, 4 and 5), were found to be 36.12, 21.44, 34.44, 28.09 and 24.28 kg/ pond, respectively. The statistical evaluation of the results showed that the differences in total yield among the experimental treatments were significant ($p < 0.01$). These results are relatively in agreement with those obtained by Green (1992), who concluded that layer chicken litter can replace 27 to 58% of the pelleted supplemental feed without any significant effects on tilapia yield and the total substitution can be occurred for the first 60 days of culture. Green *et al* (1989), found also that net fish production was the greatest in the chicken litter treatment (1759 kg/ha/150 days), and production was different when dairy cow manure (1295

kg/ha/150 days), or chemical fertilizer (1194 k/ha/150 days) were used. This probably, resulted from increased heterotrophic production (Schroeder, 1975 b, 1978) or direct consumption of manure (Popma, 1982).

The final data given in (Table 4) showed that the highest value (the worst) of (FCR) was recorded with treatment 1 (1.23 g feed/ g gain) while the lowest value (the best) was recorded with treatment 5 (0.62 g feed/ g gain). The statistical analysis of the results showed that the differences between the best value (treatment 5) and the worst (treatment 1) were significant ($P < 0.01$). Kerns and Roelofs (1977), reported that, growth rate and feed conversion efficiency of common carp *Cyprinus carpio* were found to be inversely related to the level of poultry waste in the diet, and this does not appear to be promising means of reducing the amount of animal protein required in fish diet.

There is an inverse correlation between the level of feeding on one side and the efficiency of feed utilization in the other side. This was reported by different fish species, i.e. Santiago *et al* (1987); El-Dahhar (1993); Poumogne and Mbonglang (1993); Eid *et al* (1995) and Khalil *et al* (2000) for tilapia. Henken *et al* (1985), indicated that there is a negative correlation between the level of feeding and the digestibility of protein and dry matter. Dawah *et al* (2002) found that the feed conversion ratio and fish growth were better when the fish were maintained on artificial diets with 10 and 20% dried algae. Zoccarato *et al* (1996), showed that (FCR) and protein efficiency ratio were significantly ($P < 0.05$) decreased with increasing level of poultry manure in the diet of rainbow trout *Oncorhynchus mykiss*. The data given in Table (4) showed that the highest value of (PER) was in treatment 5 while the lowest regarded in treatment 1 where only artificial feed was used. The statistical analysis of the results showed that there were significant differences between the treatments ($P < 0.01$). Results of protein productive values in Table (4) showed that the efficiency of net feed protein utilization could be very high when restricted feeding system was used with natural food (treatments 3, 4 and 5). The highest PPV% was in treatment 5 (121%) while the lowest was regarded in treatment 1 (44.81%), the statistical analysis of the results showed that there were significant differences between treatments ($P < 0.01$). These results are in agreement with the results obtained by Hassanen (1997) who revealed that although the protein efficiency ratio was not-significantly ($P < 0.05$) affected by increasing the level of poultry manure in the diet of sea bass *Dicentrarchus labrax*, however, the protein productive value obtained was significantly different. Shaker *et al* (2000); Ibrahim (2001); Abu Zead (2001) and Dawah *et al* (2002), Who found that the protein efficiency ratio ranged from 1.1 to 1.7 for Nile tilapia and Common carp fed on diets containing aquatic plant and algae.

Whole body composition of tilapia fish as affected by feeding treatments

Table (5) presents the chemical composition of tilapia fish treated with different feeding regimes. Moisture content of tilapia fish in treatment 2 (only organic and inorganic fertilizers) decreased significantly ($P < 0.01$) compared with the other treatments. Also body protein and fat contents in the same treatment (treatment 2) were less significantly ($P < 0.01$) than those in the other treatments. To the same results came Barash and Schroeder (1984) that tilapia fat content was higher in fish fed pelleted feed when compared by those raised with fermented manure. Brown and Murphy (1991) concluded that larger size fish class (as treatment 1 in the present experiment) usually had lower ash and higher fat content than those smaller size (treatment 2). It is obvious to notice that the rest in fish body composition was high in groups treated with fertilizers, this may be due to the increase of natural food in fish gut.

Effect of the experimental treatments on some water quality parameters.

Water qualities of the experimental ponds are presented in Table (6). The results showed that temperature ranged between 27.8 to 27.9 °C, this temperature is suitable for all chemical, physical, and biological processes in pond's water as cited by Boyd (1979).

Table 5. Chemical composition of the whole fish body at the beginning and the end of the experimental period

Parameters	DM %				
	Moisture	Crude protein	Ether extract	Ash	Rest
Initial body composition	78.79 ^a	48.79 ^c	6.75 ^f	12.67 ^c	31.79 ^a
Final body composition					
Treatment 1	76.25 ^a	53.23 ^a	19.66 ^a	13.36 ^b	13.75 ^d
Treatment 2	61.14 ^d	47.85 ^c	9.68 ^e	13.61 ^a	28.86 ^a
Treatment 3	72.18 ^b	52.40 ^a	16.04 ^b	13.74 ^a	17.82 ^c
Treatment 4	67.36 ^c	51.52 ^b	13.50 ^c	12.34 ^c	22.64 ^b
Treatment 5	66.19 ^c	50.81 ^b	12.50 ^d	12.88 ^{bc}	23.81 ^b

Dissolved oxygen (DO) readings during the experimental period ranged from 7.92 to 9.95 mg/l. Average values of pH ranged from 8.47 to 8.72 in the different treatments, water with pH values ranged from about 6.5 to 9 at dawn are most suitable for fish production (Ellis, 1973). Boyd (1984) reported that the level of DO should be above 4 ppm which is considered limiting level. At DO lower than 4 ppm fish may live but can not feed or grow well. Total alkalinity, NH₃, NO₂, NO₃, total

phosphorus and soluble phosphate were suitable for growth of tilapia fish (Boyd, 1979).

Table 6. Average of water quality parameters throughout experimental period

Parameters	Treatments				
	Treatment 1	Treatment 2	Treatment 3	Treatment 4	Treatment 5
Temperature	27.90	27.80	27.90	27.90	27.90
Dissolved oxygen	7.92	9.95	9.02	9.15	8.92
Secchi disk	27.60	27.37	25.97	25.75	26.02
pH	8.47	8.57	8.67	8.67	8.72
Total alkalinity	848.75	851.25	838.75	838.50	837.50
NH ₃	0.23	0.03	0.40	0.36	0.38
NO ₂	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.02
NO ₃	0.10	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.17
Total phosphate	0.26	0.29	0.30	0.36	0.36
Soluble phosphate	0.05	0.09	0.12	0.09	0.10

Economical parameters

In this study, total returns (the sale of harvested fish) for the treatments (1, 2, 3, 4 and 5) were 575.15, 243.25, 537.84, 376.58 and 336.47 L.E/ treatment respectively. These results indicated that the highest value of total income was in treatment 1 (575.15 L.E) and the lowest with treatment 2 (243.25 L.E).

Net return was the highest by treatment 1 and treatment 3 while the lowest net return by treatment 2. Tilapia is marketed according to size class. Market price of fish was calculated according to the percentage of fish class's production. Total costs (TC) were found to be 211.45, 41.68, 178.89, 128.16 and 98.35 L.E for the treatments (1, 2, 3, 4 and 5), respectively. These results indicated that the highest value of (TC) was obtained by treatment 1 (211.45 L.E) while the lowest with treatment 2 (41.68 L.E). The results are in good agreement with those obtained by (Teichert-Coddington *et al* 1991), They found that the low-cost of chicken litter applied weekly at 220Kg/ha was profitably substituted for high cost feeds during the first 8 to 9 weeks of grow-out. Green (1992), observed that the production costs/ kg of tilapia were less when chicken litter was added to the feed. The observed net returns to land, labor and management were greater when manure was substituted for feed.

Table 7. Economical study of the present experiment (calculated as a sum of the two ponds/ treatment)

Item	Unit	Price (LE/ unit)	Treatments									
			Treatment 1 (two ponds)		Treatment 2 (two ponds)		Treatment 3 (Two ponds)		Treatment 4 (two ponds)		Treatment 5 (two ponds)	
			Qua. (kg)	Value (L.E)	Qua. (kg)	Value (L.E)	Qua. (kg)	Value (L.E)	Qua. (kg)	Value (L.E)	Qua. (kg)	Value (L.E)
Super Class	Kg	8	66.84	534.72	-	-	52.58	420.64	3.41	27.28	0.93	7.44
1 st class	Kg	7.5	5.39	40.425	-	-	12.65	94.875	36.93	276.975	29.81	233.575
2 nd class	Kg	6	-	-	36.46	218.76	2.41	14.46	6.12	36.72	13.95	83.7
3 rd class	Kg	4.5	-	-	4.23	19.035	1.13	5.085	5.7	25.65	1.05	4.725
4 th class	Kg	2.5	-	-	2.18	5.45	1.11	2.775	3.98	9.95	2.81	7.025
Total return			72.23	575.145	42.87	243.245	69.88	537.835	56.14	376.575	48.55	336.465
Fingerlings	1000	80	240	19.2	240	19.2	240	19.2	240	19.2	240	19.2
Artificial Feed	Kg	2	90.142	180.284	-	-	72.533	145.066	45.859	91.718	29.646	59.292
Poultry manure	Kg	0.3	-	-	12	3.6	3	0.9	6	1.8	9	2.7
Tri.sup.phosphate	Kg	1.6	-	-	3.2	5.12	0.8	1.28	1.6	2.56	2.4	3.84
Urea	Kg	1.1	-	-	1.6	1.76	0.4	0.44	0.8	0.88	1.2	1.32
Water exchange cost	Liter	0.6	20	12	20	12	20	12	20	12	20	12
Total cost				211.448		41.68		178.886		128.158		98.352
Net return				363.697		201.565		358.949		248.417		238.118

CONCLUSION

From the present experiment we can conclude that, chicken manure and inorganic fertilizers can replace 100% of pelleted feed in the first 30 days of culture without adverse effects on growth of tilapia during the first 30 days of culture. Also it is recommended from the economical side of view to start tilapia rearing for the first 30 days on natural food by fertilizing fish ponds with both organic and inorganic fertilizers which improve the efficiency of feed utilization.

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