

**GRADUAL REPLACEMENT OF MAIZE WITH KUNNU WASTE IN DIET
FOR AFRICAN SHARPTOOTH CATFISH FINGERLINGS
CLARIAS GARIEPINUS (SILURIFORMES: CLARIIDAE)**

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ABSTRACT

The high cost of imported fish feed has resulted into researches on low cost and locally available indigenous feed resources. Study on the gradual replacement of Maize with Kunnu Waste in diet for African catfish fingerlings (*Clarias gariepinus*) was conducted for eight weeks in the Department of Biological Sciences laboratory, University of Abuja to ascertain the viability of Kunnu waste as fish feed ingredients. A total of 180 fingerlings were purchased from ADP fish farm in Gwagwalada. Kunnu wastes were collected from a local processor of kunnu at Iddo, Airport Road Abuja. The mean values of physico-chemical parameters recorded are within the range for fish culture. The highest mean weight gain of 13.89g was recorded in 100% inclusion followed by 75% (6.52g), while 50% inclusion had the lowest (0.13g). The highest specific growth rate (SGR) of 1.60 was also recorded from diet with 100% inclusion of kunnu waste. The best Feed Conversion Ratio (FCR) of 0.89 was recorded in 100% inclusion followed by the control group (0.97). There was correlation between Specific Growth Rate (SGR) and body weight gain ($P > 0.05$). However, weight increases with increased level of Kunnu waste inclusion ($P < 0.05$). The result shows that Maize can easily be replaced with kunnu waste which is cost effective in the diet of African catfish without any adverse effect on performance.

KEYWORDS: Kunnu Waste, *Clarias gariepinus*, Growth Parameters, Correlation, Gwagwalada