SUITABILITY OF REPLACEMENT OF IMPORTED FISHMEAL WITH LOCAL FISHMEAL(*Amblypharyngodon melettinus*(Valenciennes, 1844)) IN BROILER RATION.

BY

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ABSTRACT

In broiler production, the feed cost comprises 70-80% of total cost of production. At present the feed mills use imported fishmeal as the major source of animal protein.

The potentiality of using local fishmeal as a major source of protein has not been studied in detail. The use of fishmeal as a major source of animal protein will bring down the cost of production of broilers. Hence, a study was conducted to study the suitability of replacing imported fishmeal with locally prepared fishmeal in broiler ration.

The experiment was conducted at the Livestock Farm of Department of Animal Science, Eastern University Sri Lanka, for a period of 45 days beginning from 27th September to 11th November 2002.

Local fishmeal was prepared from Mundan (*Amblypharyngodon melettinus*) fish caught from Unnichchi tank. The nutrient composition of fishmeal was determined by proximate analysis. The crude protein, ether extract, ash and salt content on dry matter basis were 58.6,11.56, 4.79 and 0.175% respectively.

The experiment consisted of five treatments including a control ration (100% imported fishmeal) and four experimental rations. In the experimental ration imported fishmeal was replaced by local fishmeal on weight basis at the proportions of 25, 50 75 and 100%. Each treatment consisted of two replicates (10 chicks were allotted to each replicate).

Records were maintained for feed intake and weight of birds, starting from the week two of the experimental period. Data were collected at weekly interval.

The effects of treatments and weeks on feed consumption, weight gain, feed conversion efficiency, cost, income and profit per kg of carcass weight were studied.

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