

systems. However, genetic analysis using DNA markers being carried out under an on-going DFID funded project involving the University of Stirling, demonstrated that introgression is present in less than 10% of broodstock in hatcheries surveyed, indicating that the problem may not yet be very widespread.

“It is debatable whether the potential risk-benefit ratios of hybridisation warrant continued experimentation...”

Introgression was also found to be widespread in Philippine tilapia stocks in the 1980s, with the majority of stocks considered at the time to be pure *O. niloticus* found to be introgressed with the previously introduced and slower growing *O. mossambicus*. This resulted in the fresh introduction of tilapia stocks from several sources and it has taken over a decade to effectively replace the introgressed stocks. Given the almost ubiquitous presence of feral tilapia through much of Asia, introgression of cultured stocks is commonplace, although it often goes undetected.

In summary

It is debatable whether the potential risk-benefit ratios of hybridisation warrant continued experimentation and certainly efforts to raise awareness of the risks of indiscriminate hybridisation should be made. Even the relative success story of the hybrid catfish in Thailand is not without its risks. Wild stocks of *C. macrocephalus* are threatened not only by collection of females for use as broodstock but also by introgression with hybrids escaping from commercial farms. The only reason that this had yet to happen on a wide scale would appear to be down to the good fortune that the hybrid has reduced reproductive capacity.

What's New on the Web

www.techsoup.org

Technology assistance for non-profit organizations

A few days ago I stumbled across the ‘Techsoup’ website completely by accident. Techsoup is a US-based organization that calls itself a ‘comprehensive source of technology information just for nonprofit organizations’, and this would seem to be a fairly accurate claim - Techsoup does a number of things. If you or your organization is involved in use of technology for development, community work or education then I recommend that you take a careful look at the resources available through this website. The site has a very impressive list of sponsors and partners including Microsoft and AOL Time Warner, BP, Adobe Systems, Vodafone, Lotus and Cisco Systems. It is also partnered with an organization called Computer Mentor and...CNET...ok guilty, so I was enviously reading reviews of a great new handheld computer that is available pretty much everywhere but Thailand (grumble...why, Dell, why?).

Free and discounted technology for non-profit organizations

Firstly, Techsoup partners with the philanthropic groups of leading technology companies to provide centralized access to technology products that have been donated (ie. are available for free) or discounted for non-profit organizations. There is some quite good equipment available here – for example virus protection software from Symantech, Office XP from Microsoft and switches from Cisco Systems. Some things are available directly through the Techsoup website (they charge relatively small administrative fees) and for others you have to apply directly to the providing company. There are application procedures (of course) and

the vendors also impose varying restrictions in line with their company policies.

Grants, funding and resource links

You’ll find lists of free and discounted software distributors. There is also a comprehensive list of links to technology-related funding and grants providers – Adobe, Dell, the Gates Foundation, the Hewlett Foundation, Mitsubishi, the Packard Foundation and the list goes on. Application details are provided along with comments and ratings from people who have already applied so you can find out which grants schemes have user-friendly procedures and which would be a waste of your time.

User-friendly technology guides

At last a technology organization that actually provides user-friendly information. A wide range of easy-to-understand articles are provided through the site that to help laypersons understand technology, and to use it effectively and appropriately. No computer background is assumed. Subjects covered include technology planning and hardware, using the internet and email effectively, options for online discussions and making technology accessible to people. There’s a lot of other useful stuff that you might need to know if you’re going to get involved in using technology for development – how to find appropriate volunteers, dealing with consultants, and What To Do When Your Techie Leaves You !

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system should be systematically examined to identify and alleviate stressful factors, with reference to the specific requirements of the cultured species⁶.

Conclusion

From a nutritional perspective the essential elements of the culture system are the performance of the feed, of the feeding strategies that are employed and of the culture environment. Feed performance should be considered in terms of biological and economic efficiency. The performance of feeds and management practices can be estimated on-farm through use of feed conversion efficiency ratios. Systematic sampling and maintenance of accurate records are essential to farm management and allow the effects of variations in feeding techniques to be evaluated. Manufacture of feeds on farm offers greater control over diet and the potential for cost savings through manipulating nutritional profile and through the use of cheaper alternative ingredients. Maintenance of an optimal culture environment can also enhance productivity.

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What's new on the web

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Getting help

The Techsoup website also supports a number of web boards and discussion groups where you can ask questions or contact people about problems or issues. A free email newsletter is also available to help you keep up to date with new resources as they become available.

While the applications procedure does look a bit US-centric I have contacted Techsoup and they have confirmed that they accept applications from organizations operating in other parts of the world. So once again, if you're involved in a non-profit organization and could use some help with your IT, you might like to have a look at the resources available through this site.