

CATFISH (CLARIUS GARIEPINUS) BREEDING

Artificial/induced spawning is commonly used for catfish

Procedure of induced spawning in catfish

Injection of the female spawner

- Draw the ovaprim hormone into a syringe
- Cover the head of the female with a clean wet towel and inject at an angle of 30-45° into the dorsal muscle
- Put the injected female in a tank. Ovulation will take place 12-16 hours depending on water temperature



Collection of milt

- Before stripping the female, sacrifice a male (average weight 500g) and dissect it to remove the testes
- Pull the intestine aside, remove the testes and dry them on a piece of blotting paper (the milt loses its activity 30-60 seconds after contact with water)
- Make small openings on the lobes of the testes and squeeze the milt out





Stripping of the female spawners

- Do not feed females 3 days before eggs stripping.
- Gently hold the female with a dry towel and strip the eggs into a bowl/tray by applying gentle pressure on the abdomen

Fertilization of eggs

- Mix milt with fertilizing solution before pouring on eggs (mix 3g of Urea and 4g of Sodium chloride in 1L of water to make the fertilizing solution)
- Mix the eggs with the milt by gently moving the tray sideways or using a feather for 1-5 minutes
- Fertilization occurs in 2-5 minutes

CATFISH FRY INCUBATION AND NURSING

Incubation

- Distribute eggs to a substrate (kakabans, floating net or clean roots of Nile cabbage)
- The eggs will take 20-40 hrs to hatch
- Monitor the eggs regularly. Healthy eggs have green-brownish colour. Remove white eggs by siphoning

Nursing of catfish larvae

- Keep hatched larvae in incubators until yolk-sac is completely absorbed
- Cover the larvae since they swim and cluster together in dark places
- Star feeding fry after 3-4 days
- Transfer the fry to a tank/hapa-in-pond
- The fry (now fingerlings) are ready for stocking 3-4 weeks later.

