

Utilization and cost benefit analyses of *Oreochromis niloticus* fed fermented cassava, *Manihot esculentus* leaf meal supplemented diets

Abstract

The high cost of feeding is detrimental to the growth, sustainability and profitability of aquaculture; hence alternative ingredients are being sourced to reduce this cost. 6kg of Cassava leaves were collected fresh from cassava farm; washed and divided into two-equal halves. One half was blanched while the other fermented then each divided into equal halves. One part sun-dried and the other air-dried then proximate composition and hydrocyanide were analysed. Fermented and Feed-growth response experiment was conducted in which Juvenile *Oreochromis niloticus* were fed diets where fermented and sun-dried cassava leaf meal (FSCLM) was used to substitute for soybean meal at 0%, 25%, 50%, 75% and 100% levels to formulate 35% isoproteic diets for twelve weeks. The results of the experiment showed reduced hydrocyanide content and increased crude protein in fermented & sun-dried followed by fermented and air-dried cassava leaf meal and these were significantly different ($p < 0.05$). The feed-growth response results indicated that 100% FSCLM diet has the highest growth performance and nutrient utilization while 50% CLM inclusion has the lowest. The mean weight gain ranged between 5.67-18.83g/fish, feed conversion ratio was between 1.455-1.723, protein efficiency ratio was 1.099-1.314 and specific growth rate between 1.75-2.16%/day. The highest benefit cost ratio of 1.27 was recorded in fingerlings fed 100% cassava leaves meal inclusion diet and lowest of 0.72 from those fed 50% cassava leaves meal inclusion diet.

Keywords: *Oreochromis niloticus*, fermented & sun-dried cassava leaf meal, processing, feed utilization, cost benefit analyses

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Introduction

Food Fish is the only important aquatic animal food source that is captured the wild rather than can also be farmed. However, capture fisheries have not been able to meet up with the growing demand while the wild is approaching full exploitation.^{1,2} The mandate to increase meets the ever-increasing demand for fish through aquaculture has expanded very rapidly and is now the fastest growing food-producing industry in the world.³ If the rapid growth of aquaculture persists, the feed requirement may increase many fold, hence for researchable ideas to sustain this is highly essential. Feeding of fish in aquaculture most especially in Nigeria has widely been reported as a renowned researchable aspect of aquaculture nutrition since it contributes about 60-70% of the total cost incurred during the fish production cycle as documented by Eyo, Abu et al. & Sogbesan.^{2,4,5} The hike in price of fish feed is not limited to the cost and competitions for the ingredients used in formulation alone but also with the high cost of fish meal which is the most common source of animal protein. This fish meal contains high level of phosphorus far beyond the requirement for optimal growth in fish leading environmental pollution such as eutrophication. On the other side, Plant protein has been documented to have the potential of decreasing the problem of phosphorus pollution since plant does not contain high level of phosphorus⁶ hence, its use as feed ingredient can reduce the burden of fish meal. Soybean meal which has been coined a novel plant protein has attracted many industrial commercial importance leading to increase in its price and scarcity.

Cassava is a common name of starch production root crop *Manihot esculenta* because it is an important source of starch although the leaves which have been credited with major industrial and household

usages are rich in protein (14-40% dry matter), mineral, vitamin B₁, B₂, C and carotenes. Apart from lower methionine, lysine and isoleucine contents, the amino acid profile of cassava leaf protein compares favourably with those milk, cheese, soybean, fish and egg.⁷ The raw leaves of cassava plant can be toxic due to the natural nitrile compounds called cyanogenic glycosides or cyanogens, which are in the form of linamarin(93%) and lotaustralin(7%). They are β -glycosides of acetone cyanohydrins and ethyl-methyl cyanohydrins, respectively. Sarkiyayi & Agar⁸ reported that these precursors breakdown during fermentation to release the toxic compound hydrogen cyanide (HCN); which is harmful to the consumers.

Oreochromis niloticus exhibit their best growth rates when fed a balanced diet that provides a proper mix of protein, carbohydrate, lipid, vitamins and minerals. Fry and fingerlings fish require a diet higher in protein, lipid, vitamins, minerals and lower in carbohydrates as they are need for developing of muscles, internal organs, bone and rapid growth while the adult needs more calories from fat and carbohydrate for metabolism and a smaller percentage of protein for growth.^{9,10} Thus this study is focused on the use of processed cassava leaf meal as partial replacer for soybean in the diet of *Oreochromis niloticus* fingerlings.

Materials and Methods

The research was conducted in the research farm of the Department of Fisheries, Modibbo Adama University of Technology (MAUTech), Yola. The University is located at Girei Local Government Area of Adamawa State.

Experimental materials

100 Juveniles of *Oreochromis niloticus* with average weight 15.80±0.45g and length, 8.50±0.12cm were collected from the Research Farm of the Department of Fisheries, MAUTech, Yola. 6kg of fresh Cassava leaves (*Manihot esculentus*) were obtained from Cassava Farm in Ngurore, Yola South, Adamawa state. They were divided into two equal halves and each subjected to the different processing methods.

Processing of the cassava leaves

3kg were immersed in boiled water in a plastic container for

5mins. The container was covered for effective steaming and later, the leaves were filtered-out. 3kg were soaked in a plastic rubber for five (5)days; and divided into two portions; the first portion was sun-dried while the second one was air-dried in the laboratory. The dried leaves were separately milled into powder, sieved and stored in polythene and labeled with the processing methods.

Diet formulation

Five 35.0% isocaloric diets were formulated and confirmed 40% of crude protein. The Fermented and Sun-dried Cassava Leaves Meal (FSCLM) was incorporate into each of these diets at 0%, 25%, 50% 75% and 100% to replace Soybean in the diets as shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Percentage composition of the experimental diets on dry matter basis

Ingredients	0%	25%	50%	75%	100%
Fish meal	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00
Soybean meal	32.50	24.38	16.25	8.13	0.00
Fermented & Sun-dried Cassava Leaf Meal	0.00	8.13	16.25	24.38	32.50
Rice bran	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00
Maize meal	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00
Starch	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
Palm oil	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Vitamin Premixes	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Calcium diphosphate	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Methionine	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
Lysine	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
Salt	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Calculated Crude Protein	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00

Feeding experiment

One hundred (100) *Oreochromis niloticus* fingerlings were allocated to 10 treatments at the rate of 8 fish per tank. The fish were fed at 5% of their body weight twice daily from 8:00-9:00am and 4:00-5:00pm Madu & Akilo.¹¹ Uneaten feed and faecal matter were daily siphoned and dead fish were removed, counted and recorded.

An electronic weighing balance was used in determining the initial weight of each set of fish before stocking, later the weight was measured in batch weekly for each treatment throughout the period of the experiment. Also, a graduated meter rule was used in measuring the initial standard length of each set of fish before stocking, and weekly measurement followed throughout the feeding trial.

Water quality analysis

The physiochemical parameters were monitored throughout the feeding trials. Temperature was measured using mercury in-bulb thermometer, dissolved oxygen using Jenway DO Meter (9071), pH using pH meter (215) and Ammonia using Ammonia meter (96715).

Proximate and hydrocyanide analysis

The fresh and differently processed cassava leaves were analysed for moisture, crude protein, fibre, ash, ether extract and nitrogen free extracts contents according to Association of Analytical Chemist

method¹³ and Hydrocyanide following the method of Cooke & Maduagwu.¹³

Analysis of fish growth and nutrient utilization

The growth was express as mean weight gain; specific growth rate, condition factor, and survival rate Fagbenro.¹⁴ Nutrient utilization indices were expressed as feed conversion ratio and protein efficiency ratio.¹⁵

Cost analyses

Cost evaluation of experiment diets was base on the current prices of the ingredients in the market. Cost of transportation of the cassava leaves from Ngurore, Yola South LGA, Adamawa State to Modibbo Adama University of Technology was recorded. The economic evaluations of the diets were calculated as outlined by Sogbesan & Ugwumba.¹⁶ These are:

Estimated Investment Cost Analysis=Cost of Feeding (N)+Cost of Fingerings Stocked (N)

$$\text{Profit Index} = \frac{\text{Value of Fish (N)}}{\text{Cost of Feed (N)}}$$

$$\text{Incidence of Cost} = \frac{\text{Cost of Feed (N)}}{\text{Mean Weight Gain of Fish Produced (g)}}$$

Net Profit=Sales–Expenditure.

$$\text{Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR)} = \frac{\text{Total Sales}}{\text{Total Expenditure}}$$

Statistical analysis

Data were analysed using one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) and where significant treatment differences were observed, treatment means were compared using Duncan New Multiple Range Test. The broken-line model of Robbins et al.,¹⁷ was used to estimate the optimal fermented and sundried cassava meal inclusions based on the specific growth rate.

Results

Proximate composition of different processed cassava leaves

The proximate composition of the different processed cassava leaves is given in Table 2. The fresh has the composition of 23.2% protein, 4.03% ether extra, 6.3% ash, 5.12% fibre, 58.1% moisture and 38.62% Nitrogen Free Extra; Blanched leaves have 41.77% moisture, 25.8% protein, 4.21% ether extra, 6.1% ash, 2.55% crude fibre and 41.3% nitrogen free extra; Soaked and air-dried has 35.78% protein, 11.03% ether extra, 8.16% ash, 4.2% fibre, 6.35% moisture and 36.12% nitrogen free extra; Soaked and air-dried has 38.45% protein, 11.46% ether extract, 7.35% ash, 4.18% fibre, 5.88% moisture and 34.17% nitrogen free extract. Soaked and sun-dried has the highest protein content of 38.45% while fresh has the lowest content of 23.2%. Crude fibre was highest in fresh and lowest in blanched with 2.55%.

Ash content of 8.16% in soaked and air-dried is highest and 6.1% in blanched is lowest. Also the table shows that fresh cassava leaves have the cyanide content of 282mg/kg, 105.03mg/kg blanched leaves, 9.06mg/kg soaked and air-dried leaves and 6.23mg/kg soaked and sun-dried leaves. This shows a significant difference ($p > 0.05$).

Nutrient utilization of *O. niloticus* fed experimental diets

The weekly percentage weight gain expressed on Figure 1 showed continuous growth for all the treatments. Table 3 shows a gradual increase in weight of fish fed the experimental diets. Fish fed 100% cassava leaf meal diet inclusion had the highest mean weight gain (MWG) and mean length gain (MLG) with the values 18.83g and 6.6cm respectively and lowest in 50% cassava leaf meal diet inclusion with values 5.67g and 3.97cm respectively. Highest specific growth rate (SGR) (2.16%) was recorded in fish fed 75% cassava leaf meal diet inclusion and it is not significant. The Robbin broken-line analysis shows that Mean weight gain (g/fish) = $0.002x^2 - 0.133x + 8.416$; $R^2 = 0.901$ with $Y_{max} = 18.9$ g/fish and $X_{max} = 97.5\%$ inclusion levels as shown in Figure 2. Table 4 showed the highest significant correlation value $r^2 = 0.99450$, ($p < 0.05$) between the performances of *O. niloticus* fed 25% and 50% sundried and fermented cassava leaf meal diets. Table 5 shows a significant correlation between Mean weight gain (MWG) Percentage Weight gain (PWG) and Profit Index. The temperature ranged between 24.63 - 28.50°C during the experimental period and within the feeding trials. Similarly, Dissolved oxygen was between 6.20 - 8.30 mg/L, pH between 6.90 - 7.80 and ammonia was between 0.17-0.25 mg/L.

Table 2 Proximate Composition and Cyanide Content of Different Processed Cassava Leaves

Parameters	Fresh	Blanched	Fermented+sun-dried	Fermented +air -dried
Moisture (%)	58.10 ^a	50.00 ^a	5.88 ^b	6.35 ^b
Crude protein (%)	23.20 ^b	25.80 ^b	38.45 ^a	35.78 ^a
Crude fibre (%)	5.12 ^a	2.55 ^a	4.18 ^a	4.20 ^a
Ash (%)	6.30 ^a	6.10 ^a	7.46 ^a	8.16 ^a
Ether Extract (%)	4.03 ^b	4.21 ^b	11.46 ^a	11.03 ^a
Nitrogen free Extract (%)	38.62 ^a	41.30 ^a	34.17 ^a	36.12 ^a
HCN(mg/kg)	282.00 ^a	105.03 ^b	6.23 ^c	9.06 ^c
Percentage HCN loss	0.0	62.76	97.79	96.79

Mean of data on the same row with different superscripts are significant different ($p > 0.05$)

Table 3 Growth, Feed Utilization and Cost Benefits of *Oreochromis niloticus* Fed Cassava Leaves Meal Diets

Parameters	0%	25%	50%	75%	100%
Initial Mean Weight (g/fish)	15.76 ^a	16.33 ^b	15.50 ^a	14.08 ^c	16.72 ^b
Final Mean Weight (g/fish)	24.31 ^b	23.43 ^b	21.22 ^b	28.85 ^a	35.55 ^c
Mean Weight Gain (g/fish)	8.55 ^b	7.10 ^b	5.67 ^b	14.77 ^a	18.83 ^a
Initial ML (cm)	8.50 ^a	8.69 ^b	8.46 ^a	9.11 ^b	8.87 ^a
Final Mean Length (cm)	14.01 ^a	14.69 ^a	12.43 ^c	13.39 ^b	15.47 ^a
Mean Length Gain (cm)	5.51 ^a	6.00 ^a	3.97 ^b	4.28 ^b	6.60 ^a
Specific Growth Rate (%/day)	2.06 ^a	1.79 ^b	1.88 ^b	2.16 ^a	1.75 ^b
Feed Conversion Ratio	1.67 ^a	1.69 ^a	1.46 ^b	1.72 ^a	1.66 ^a

Table Continued

Parameters	0%	25%	50%	75%	100%
Percentage Weight Gain (%)	54.29 ^b	43.48 ^{bc}	36.46 ^c	104.90 ^a	112.62 ^a
Condition factor	1.74 ^a	1.38 ^b	1.68 ^a	1.43 ^b	1.72 ^a
Protein Efficiency Ratio	1.23 ^a	1.10 ^c	1.27 ^a	1.31 ^b	1.3 ^b
Survival rate (%)	68.75 ^a	50.00 ^b	62.50 ^a	37.50 ^c	37.50 ^c
Profit Index	1.11 ^a	1.06 ^b	1.06 ^b	1.29 ^a	1.49 ^c
Incidence of cost	121.64 ^a	139.43 ^a	165.78 ^b	60.26 ^c	44.61 ^c
Cost Benefit Ratio(BCR)	1.06 ^a	0.94 ^b	0.72 ^b	1.12 ^c	1.27 ^c
Net Profit	11.19 ^a	16.24 ^b	11.23 ^a	15.43 ^c	16.05 ^b

Mean of data on the same row with different superscripts are significant different (p>0.05)

Table 4 Correlation (r^2) of the treatments based on the determinant indices of *Oreochromis niloticus* fed fermented and sundried cassava leaves meal diets

Treatments (diets)	0% (control)	25%	50%	75%	100%
0 % (Control)					
25%	0.978097				
50%	0.970301	0.994503			
75%	0.75164	0.675466	0.609511		
100%	0.639602	0.545497	0.47101	0.984356	

Table 5: Correlation (r^2) of the indices based on the treatments of *Oreochromis niloticus* fed experimental diets

Keys: MLG - Mean length gain; SGR – Specific growth rate, FCR- Feed conversion ratio, PWG- Percentage

Indices (r^2)	MWG	MLG	SGR	FCR	PWG	K	PER	SR	PI	IC	BCR
MLG	0.405606										
SGR	-0.01229	-0.59837									
FCR	0.497682	0.486305	0.284489								
PWG	0.98301	0.26577	0.147092	0.534434							
K	0.100922	0.126342	-0.13092	-0.45854	0.006159						
PER	0.627816	-0.30688	0.331349	-0.1586	0.665525	0.478097					
SR	-0.80742	-0.25049	0.119418	-0.4993	-0.82704	0.44193	-0.31984				
PI	0.986827	0.423586	-0.12593	0.369729	0.948499	0.208047	0.65907	-0.77028			
IC	-0.98114	-0.36875	-0.1393	-0.62981	-0.98976	0.001226	-0.58307	0.802732	-0.93751		
BCR	0.897977	0.620623	0.064716	0.753344	0.870716	0.087017	0.365253	-0.6277	0.850049	-0.93022	
NP	0.592937	0.505519	-0.31775	0.637643	0.580378	-0.6223	-0.13921	-0.88717	0.542788	-0.60565	0.558576

weight gain, K- condition factor, PER- Protein efficiency ratio, SR – Survival rate, PI – Profit Index, , IC- Incidence of cost, BCR – Benefit cost ratio

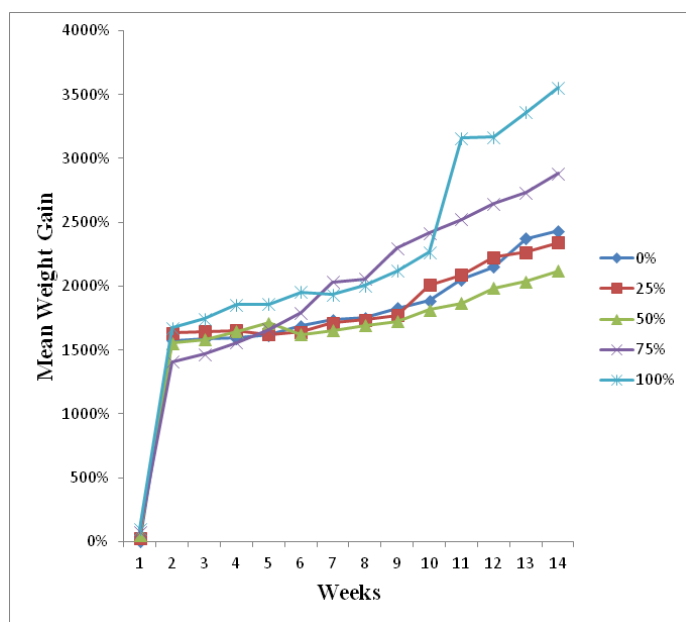


Figure 1 Weekly Percentage Weight Gain of *Oreochromis niloticus* fed Experimental diets for 84 days.

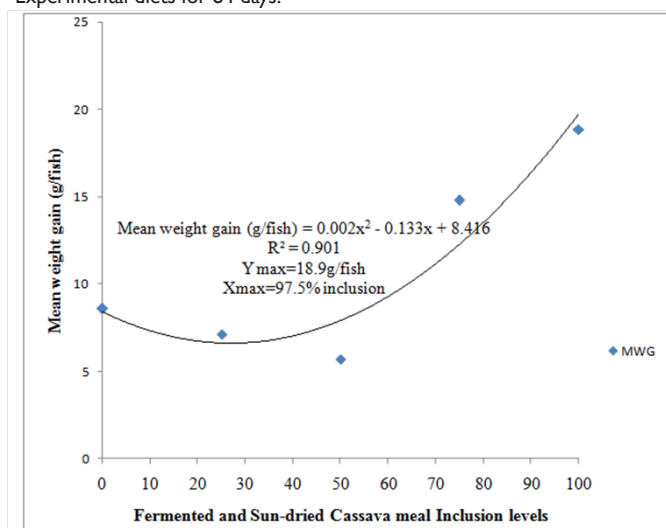


Figure 2 Broken-line analysis of the effect of Fermented and sun dried cassava meal diets on mean weight gain (g/fish) of *Oreochromis niloticus*.

Discussion

The physico-chemical parameters of the water for the experiment fall within the optimal ranges for optimum fish production.¹⁸ The chemical composition of *Manihot esculenta* leaf meal in this research collaborates with a prior finding of Fasuyi.⁷ However, values of chemical compositions were comparable with those reported in *Moringa oleifera*.¹⁹ This shows that *Manihot esculenta* leaf meal has the potentials to supply some of the needed nutrients in aquaculture feed.

The cassava leaves processed through soaking and sun-drying had lowest HCN content of 7.42mg/kg. This collaborates with findings of Heuze & Tran²⁰ that sun-drying appears to be more efficient than oven

drying 60°C for HCN reduction. FAO²¹ recommends 10mg/kg HCN body weight as the maximum safe intake of cyanide containing food/feed for humans and animals.

Soaked and sun-dried cassava leaves were used at 0-100% in which the highest mean weight gain (MWG) of 18.83g was in 100% cassava leaf meal inclusion, while 8.55g, 7.10g, 5.67g and 14.77g are in 0%, 25%, 50% and 75% respectively. There is a significant difference ($p > 0.05$) in the parameters measured. This is in support with findings of Keong & Leong²² that supplementation of 100% sun dried Cassava Leaf Meal protein diet with 0.1% methionine tended to improve growth performance in *Oreochromis niloticus*. Sun drying of whole cassava leaves of the sweet variety was effective in rendering the meal safe for incorporation in to pelleted diets. And also Heuze & Tran,²⁰ in which Fresh and sun dried cassava leaves from sweet variety were included at 76-83% in tilapia diets. Survival was 100% on all the diets and growth parameters were identical for fresh and dried cassava leaves, even though fresh leaves contained more HCN.

The increase in crude protein level from 23.20% in fresh to 35.78% in soaked and sundried is influenced by different processing techniques used in this study. This level of crude protein is also influenced by the fermentation process. Fermentation involves enrichment by direct and continues fermentation of products which are rich in starch and poor in protein.²³ Cyanide levels are significantly different in leaves from different processing techniques. The study clearly shows that soaking and sun-drying is efficient processing method for the removal of HCN from cassava leaves.

All the experimental diets were accepted by the experimental fish indicating that the incorporation of soaked and sun dried cassava leaves meal diets did not adversely affect the palatability of the diets. The result was in comparable with Fagbenro¹⁴ & Francis²⁴ who reported that reduction in anti-nutrients by different processing methods resulted in better palatability and growth in fish.

The protein efficiency ratio (PER) recorded for diet 100% cassava leaves meal inclusion was the highest (1.314) which indicates that *Oreochromis niloticus* fingerlings fed this diet utilize protein than fingerlings fed the other diets. Lowest Feed conversion ratio is an indication of the ability of fish to convert the feed and the nutrient into flesh for growth that any other feed as this was recorded in diets with cassava leaf meal compared to the control, meaning that clarias gariepinus were able to use the leaf protein better than the seed protein in the control. The condition factor (K) were not significantly different ($p > 0.05$) from all the treatment. Similar results were obtained by Thomas et al.,²⁵ and Bichi & Ahmad.^{26,27}

The profit index was higher in diet 100% cassava leaves inclusion than in all other experimental diets 0%, 25%, 50% and 75%. This is an indication that replacement of soybean with cassava leaf meal can increase the profit benefit in feed production up to 97.5% inclusions according to Figure 2. Highest Benefit cost ratio and Net profit from 100% cassava leaves meal diet which is considered the best for *Oreochromis niloticus*. Despite this highest significant correlation ($r^2 = 0.9844$; $p < 0.05$) existed between all the indices used for fish performances in fish fed diets 75% and 100% putting these two diets as most appropriate for this research.

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None.

Conflict of interest

The author declares that there is no conflict of interest.

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