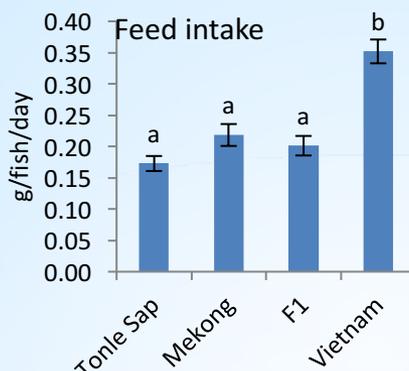


Fig.1: growth performance and feed intake in the hatchery



“Performance of domesticated vs. non-domesticated striped snakehead, regard to weaning onto pellet feed and grow-out”.

In Cambodia snakehead collected as wild juveniles have traditionally been cultured in small cages and ponds. The main type of feed used was small-sized fish. To switch this method, new breeding, weaning and formulated feed technologies from Vietnam were transferred to Cambodia under AquaFish supporting research. Because Cambodian broodstock fish have not yet been domesticated, the opportunity existed to evaluate the survival and growth of larvae from wild vs. domesticated broodstock and subsequent grow-out of the weaned fish.

The experiment consisted of four treatments with six replicates each, with larvae originating from the four broodstock groups: F1 generation, Tonle Sap, Mekong and Viet Nam hatchery. All treatments were subjected to the same weaning protocol (Hien & Bengtson 2011) in 100-L tanks at 5 fish/L fed to satiation lasted for 60 days in hatchery phase, following for the 6-month grow-out phase in hapa nets (3m x 1m x 1.5m) by feeding commercial pelleted feed at the Freshwater Aquaculture Research and Development Center.

Domesticated snakehead grew significantly faster (ca. 10 g) than non-domesticated Cambodian fish (ca. 4-5 g) in the hatchery (Fig. 1), followed by continued rapid growth (to ca. 350 g vs. 140-150 g) in the grow-out phase (Fig. 2), largely due to increased feed consumption. It is not known whether differences are due to inherent genetic differences between wild Vietnamese and Cambodian fish, or to selective breeding in Vietnam.

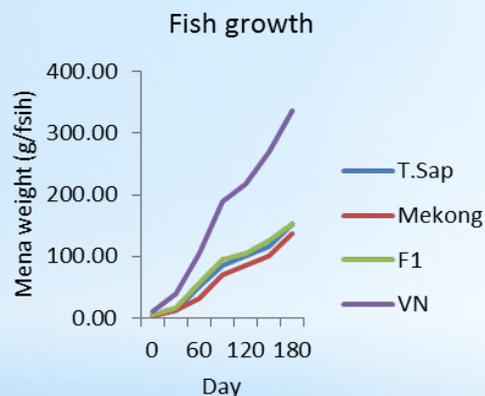
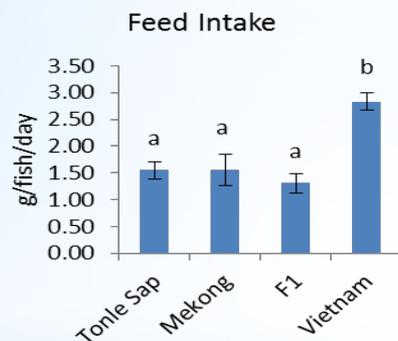


Fig.2: growth performance and feed intake in the grow-out



Conclusion: Both snakehead can accept pellet feed, however the domesticated grows significantly faster than the non-domesticated, largely due to increased feed consumption resulted from long-term adaptation to pellet.

