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**LABEO DUSSUMERI POST LARVAE TO FINGERLING CULTURE
PRACTICES IN NET CAGES AT MAGALLA TANK, KURUNEGALA,
SRI LANKA**

K. KANANKAGE, UDENI EDIRISINGHE AND I.M. PIYATHILAKE

*Department of Animal Science, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya,
Sri Lanka*

Sri Lanka has a very high potential for aquaculture due to her wealthy aquatic resources. However, commercial aquaculture practices commenced later when compared with other Asian countries.

One important aspect in aquaculture is the continuous and adequate supply of fry or fingerlings to be given to Fish Farmers/Fisheries Organisations. Therefore, production of good quality hatchlings from fish eggs and the successful rearing of them to a certain size at which they can survive and grow, play a pivotal role in the success of a particular aquaculture programme.

Two numbers of 4x2x2 m nylon hapa net cages were used (50 u mesh size) to rear fry in Magalla Tank at Kurunegala District. Fry size was 2.5 + 0.1 cm and 5,000 fry were brought from Dambulla Fisheries Station. Culture period was 60 days. Rice bran and fish-meal were fed at 500g daily. At harvesting, the number of fingerlings per cage was 2,480 and found to have a 49.6% of survival rate. Total feed cost was RS. 400.00. The gross income and net income per cage were RS. 4,340.00 and 3,940.00 respectively.

Results revealed that this is an additional income generating system. By developing cage culture practices unused labour of the members of the Fisheries Organisations in the tank can be made useful. These fingerlings could directly be released to the respective tanks. It is possible to have several culture cycles continuously per year. Therefore, the total annual fish production of a tank could be increased by this system and it is one of the easy and low cost methods for the introduction of fish fingerlings to perennial tanks in Sri Lanka.