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Fish farming in Tanzania: the availability and nutritive value of local feed ingredients

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ABSTRACT

An investigative field survey was performed to gather baseline data on locally available feed ingredients and fish farming practices in different regions of Tanzania. More than 80% of respondents relied on locally available feed ingredients as a major feed supplement for their cultured fish, with maize bran being the most commonly used feed ingredient in all regions. Crude protein content in most analyzed local feed ingredients was medium-high, while crude fat content was high in some animal and agricultural by-products, and medium-low in other ingredients. Most respondents were males and the majority of fish farms were owned by individuals. Earthen pond was the most common fish farming system in all regions except Dar es Salaam. Semi-intensively mixed-sex tilapia monoculture was the dominating fish farming practice. The results of the survey presented provide a good platform for future development of culture systems and feeding strategies for tilapia in Tanzania.

KEYWORDS

Demographics; fish farming systems; amino acids; crude protein; tilapia; fish feeds

Introduction

Fish farming industry in Africa has shown a remarkable fast growth rate of 2.5% of the world fish farming production in 2016 (FAO 2018). The production is led by Egypt (1.7%), followed by Nigeria (0.4%). However, the majority of sub-Saharan countries (excluding Nigeria) continue to report low fish farming production despite great potential resources for fish farming development and past government efforts to assist fish farmers. Fish farming operations in Tanzania started in the 1950s, but its growth was slow until the 1980s due to poor farming methods and technology (Mallya 2007). However, the fish

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farming industry has gained in popularity in recent years, as reflected in the increase in fish farms from 14,100 earthen fishponds in 2004 (FAO 2012; Kaliba et al. 2006; Mallya 2007; Mushi 2006) to 26,445 in 2019, producing in total around 18,018.6 MT annually (URT (United Republic of Tanzania) 2019). The most commonly cultured fish species is Nile tilapia *Oreochromis niloticus*, followed by African catfish, *Clarias gariepinus* (Chenyambuga et al. 2014; Kaliba et al. 2006; Mallya 2007). However, expansion of tilapia fish farming in Tanzania as in other sub-Saharan countries has been constrained for decades by lack of skilled manpower, inadequate quality feeds and seeds supply, poor management, and lack of investment capital.

The majority of farmed tilapia species in Africa, and in Tanzania, are currently reared extensively or semi-intensively for subsistence in ponds, tanks, hapas or cages, and are fed on locally available feed ingredients (Chenyambuga et al. 2014; El-Sayed 2006; Nguyen 2008). In Tanzania, tilapia fish farmers use mixed or single-ingredient diets to feed their fish (Kaliba et al. 2006). However, the local feed ingredients used and their nutrient content vary widely within and between African countries (Munguti et al. 2014; Ogello et al. 2014; Tacon, Metian, and Hasan 2009). Surveys on the use and availability of local feed ingredients to tilapia farmers have been performed in Kenya, Uganda, and Egypt, in an attempt at improving fish diets and increasing farm profits (Mamum-Ur-Rashin et al. 2013; Munguti et al. 2006; Nalwanga et al. 2009; Nasim Al Mahmud, Hossain, and Minar 2012). Moreover, value chain analysis of the fish farming feed industry has been performed in Egypt, through the use of a structured questionnaire designed for feed manufacturers and fish farmers (El-Sayed 2014). However, there is a lack of data on locally available feed ingredients from different regions of Tanzania and their nutrient content; this information is urgently needed in order to expand the fish farming industry in the country. Therefore, the present study was conducted to assess the availability and nutritional content of local feed ingredients commonly used by tilapia fish farmers in Tanzania. Moreover, the aim was also to obtain the current status of fish farming systems and practices from 24 districts and nine regions of Tanzania.

Materials and methods

Study sites

The study was carried out in 95 villages within 24 districts in nine regions of mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar Island during the period of January 2017 to February 2018. The study sites were located between latitude 2°22' and 11°20' and longitude 32°50' and 39°30' and were selected based on existing geographical zones, high water resource potential, presence of large numbers of active tilapia fish farmers and availability of potential local feed ingredients (Figure 1). The human population at the study sites ranged from 39,242 to

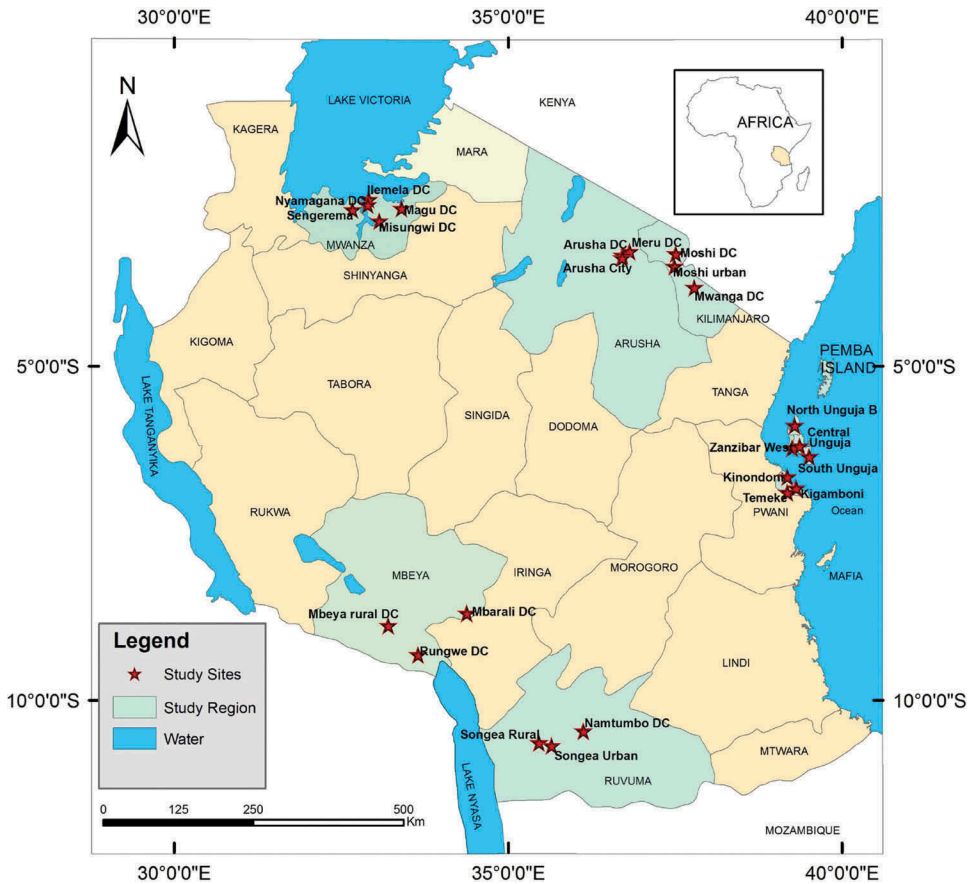


Figure 1. Map of Tanzania showing the study sites (modified from Google, IMS Database, 2016). Courtesy: A.H. Kombo.

1,220,611 and the sites represented in total 7,368,014 inhabitants (TNBS (Tanzania National Bureau of Statistics) 2012). However, the total population projection for the year 2017 was 9,641,386 inhabitants (TNBS 2012). The main economic activities at the study sites varied considerably depending on economic resources, climate conditions, and geographical zone, but included tourism, mining, fishing, agriculture, and animal production.

Data and sample collection

A structured questionnaire comprising questions concerning the type of fish farm, farming system, farming methods and technology, local feed ingredients used, source of fish seeds, investment costs, and stocking density. Other information collected were feeding practices, cost of feeds, type, and sources of water used on the farm and other issues relating to fish farming was used to collect data. Thirty local feed ingredients were collected from four different geographical locations in Tanzania (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Mbeya

and Mwanza region; [Figure 1](#)). These ingredients were analyzed to determine their nutrient content. The samples were obtained from fish farmers, local fish feed and fingerling producers, and animal feed centers located near fish farms in each region. In brief, five different local feed ingredient samples each weighing 200 g obtained from five out of 20 randomly selected fish farmers or animal feed centers in three districts per region, depending on geographical zone, availability, specificity, and climate conditions. Therefore, a total of 60 samples (15 per region) of the 30 different local feed ingredients were collected for analysis. An additional 10 commercial and local-made feed samples were collected in four regions (Mwanza, Dar es Salaam, Arusha, and Kilimanjaro) ([Figure 1](#)). The feed samples were dried, packaged and transported to Sokoine University of Agriculture for proximate analysis. Selected samples with high protein content were taken to Tanzania Veterinary Laboratory Agency for amino acid analysis.

Sample preparation

The individual feed ingredient samples from different regions were pooled, sun-dried for 48 h, packaged and transported to the laboratory for proximate analysis according to the method described by [Sindirações \(2005\)](#) and [Alimentarius \(2004\)](#). The pooled sample of each feed ingredient was then spread out on a clean plain surface marked into quarters and two opposite quarters were taken and mixed. This process was repeated until the two quarters selected comprised the desired amount of 100–200 g. Prior to analysis, these sub-samples were milled by a JYL-D020 Powerful Multifunctional Blender Food Processor, Joyoung, China and sieved by hand through 1.0 mm circular openings.

Proximate chemical analysis

Proximate chemical analysis of fish feeds and ingredients was carried out according to [AOAC \(1990\)](#). Dry matter (DM) was determined by drying 2 g of each sample ($n = 30$) to constant weight in an oven (E 115, WTB binder 7200, Tuttlingen, Germany) at 105°C overnight (12 h). Crude protein (CP) content was quantified by the standard Kjeldahl nitrogen method ([Pearson 1999](#)), using a 2200 Kjeltac auto distillation unit (Foss, Tecator, Sweden). Lipid content (ether extract, EE) was quantitatively determined using petroleum ether (ST 243 Soxtec™, Hilleroed, Denmark), crude fiber (CF) content was determined using an ANKOM 200 fiber analyzer (ANKOM, New York, USA). Ash content was determined as the residue remaining after incineration of 1 g of sample ($n = 30$) in a weighed porcelain crucible in a muffle furnace at 550°C for 3 h. The following [AOAC \(1990\)](#) methods were used: DM (930.04; 930.15); ash (930.05; 942.05), CP (954.01); EE (920.39); and CF (962.09). Nitrogen-free extract (NFE) content was

calculated by subtracting the sum of crude protein, crude lipid, ash and crude fiber from the corresponding dry matter values.

Amino acid analysis

Selected feed samples ($n = 17$) with high CP content were packed and transported to Tanzania Veterinary Laboratory Agency in Dar es Salaam for amino acid analysis by near-infrared reflectance spectrophotometry (NIRS) (DA 7250 NIR analyzer, SE-126 53 Hägersten, Sweden) according to the manufacturer's instructions. The samples were milled to a fine powder to pass through a sieve with 1 mm circular openings and mixed thoroughly (AOAC (Association of Official Analytical Chemists) 1990). Sample dishes were then filled to the brim with the milled sample, any excess sample was removed using the tool provided, and the dishes were placed on the magnetic plate of the NIRS machine. Prior to analysis, the machine was calibrated for individual amino acids according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Data analysis

The observational data collected during the study were analyzed using the SAS statistics program (SAS (r) Proprietary Software 9.4). Descriptive statistics were run to obtain frequencies and percentages for multiple comparisons of variables. Differences between variables were based on Chi-square analysis and a significance level of 5%.

Results

Demographic characteristics of respondents

In total, 202 tilapia farmers, local fish feed producers and hatchery owners in mainland Tanzania and on Zanzibar Island were interviewed. The majority of respondents (96.0%) were located in mainland Tanzania (Table 1), with the largest number of respondents from the Ruvuma region (22.8%), followed by Arusha (18.8%), Mwanza (17.3%), and Mbeya (16.3%).

Overall, the majority of respondents involved in fish farming operations were males (82.7%). However, the proportion of males and females involved in the fish farming operations varied ($p = .0041$) from one region to another (Table 1). The mean proportion of female respondents involved in fish farming activities was 17.3%, but the figure ranged from 47.4% in Dar es Salaam to 4.3% in Ruvuma.

The majority of respondents (55.0%) were in the age group of 40–60 years old (Table 2), followed by the age group of 20–40 years (29.7%). Overall, more than 20% of respondents attained secondary (21.8%) and tertiary

Table 1. Gender distribution of respondents in Tanzania.

Region	Gender (Sex)			Chi-square
	Female	Male	Total	
Arusha	7 (18.2)	31 (81.8)	38 (18.8)	$P = .0041$
Dar es Salaam	9 (47.4)	10 (52.6)	19 (9.4)	
Kilimanjaro	5 (21.7)	18 (78.3)	23 (11.4)	
Mbeya	7 (21.2)	26 (78.8)	33 (16.3)	
Mwanza	4 (11.4)	31 (88.6)	35 (17.3)	
Ruvuma	2 (4.3)	44 (95.7)	46 (22.8)	
Zanzibar	1 (12.5)	7 (87.5)	8 (4.0)	
Total	35 (17.3)	167 (82.7)	202 (100.0)	

Figures in brackets indicate the percentage of respondents of each gender within regions and between regions (total).

Table 2. Age groups (years) and education level of respondents in Tanzania.

Age group	Education Level				Total	Chi-square
	Without education	Primary education	Secondary education	Tertiary education		
<20	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (100)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.5)	$P = .0171$
20–40	0 (0.0)	30 (50.0)	8 (13.3)	22 (36.7)	60 (29.7)	
40–60	2 (1.8)	61 (55.0)	30 (27.0)	18 (16.2)	111 (55.0)	
>60	2 (6.7)	13 (43.3)	5 (16.7)	10 (33.3)	30 (14.8)	
Total	4 (2.0)	104 (51.5)	44 (21.8)	50 (24.7)	202 (100.0)	

Figures in brackets indicate the percentage of respondents in the education level within age groups, and between age groups (total).

education (24.7%, Table 2). However, the education level within age-group varied ($p = .0171$) with the highest proportion of participants with secondary education (27.0%) found in the age-group of 40–60 years and the highest proportion with tertiary education in the age-groups of 20–40 years (36.7%) and >60 years (33.3%).

Characteristics of the tilapia fish farming

The majority of the fish farms ($n = 786$) were owned by individuals (76.8%) followed by private companies (19.8%) and government (3.4%), Figure 2; Table 3). The fish farming systems were dominated by the earthen pond (67.3%), followed by concrete tanks (11.8%) and concrete ponds (10.7%) (Table 4). The average pond area was 690 m² and the farm size ranged from 1800 to 28,600 m² with a depth of 0.8 to 1.5 m for earthen and concrete ponds. The size of culture cages was 25 to 30 m³ with an average depth of 3 m. Earthen ponds were the dominating fish farming system in Mbeya (98.0%), Ruvuma (97.1%), Kilimanjaro (73.3%), Arusha (51.1%), and Mwanza (50.7%), while concrete ponds dominated in Dar es Salaam (42.6%) (Table 4).

The most cultured fish species was tilapia (82.18%) in monoculture (Figure 3), followed by polyculture of tilapia and catfish. The cultured fish were mostly (87.6%) raised semi-intensively under monoculture systems (Table 5). The

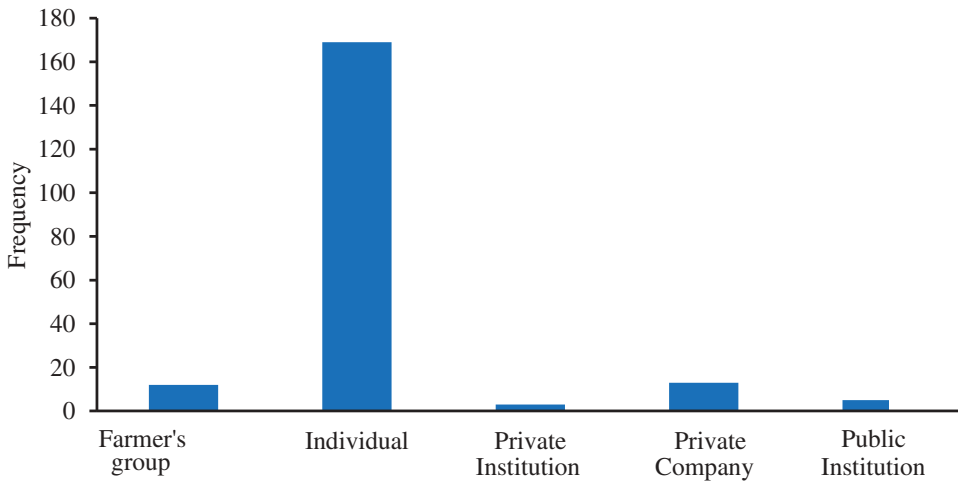


Figure 2. Fish farm ownership in Tanzania.

Table 3. Fish farming systems and fish farm ownership in Tanzania.

Farming system	Fish farm ownership			Total
	Individual	Private company	Government	
Earthen pond	392 (74.1)	114 (21.5)	23 (4.3)	529 (67.3)
Concrete pond	75 (89.3)	6 (7.1)	3 (3.6)	84 (10.7)
Concrete tank	70 (75.3)	23 (24.7)	-	93 (11.8)
Culture cages	22 (62.9)	13 (37.1)	-	35 (4.4)
Plastic tanks	35 (100)	-	-	35 (4.4)
Hapa	10 (100)	-	-	10 (1.3)
Total	604 (76.8)	156 (19.8)	26 (3.4)	786 (100.0)

Figures in brackets indicate the percentage of fish farm ownership within fish farming type and fish farming type overall (total).

Table 4. Regional distribution of fish farming systems in seven different districts in Tanzania.

Region	Earthen pond	Concrete ponds	Concrete tanks	Hapa	Culture cages	Plastic tanks	Total
Arusha	35 (51.5)	16 (23.5)	17 (25.0)	-	-	-	68 (8.7)
Dar es Salaam	11 (20.4)	23 (42.6)	15 (27.8)	-	-	5 (9.3)	54 (6.9)
Kilimanjaro	99 (73.3)	15 (11.1)	21 (15.6)	-	-	-	135 (17.2)
Mbeya	148 (98.0)	3 (2.0)	-	-	-	-	151 (19.2)
Mwanza	135 (50.7)	16 (6.0)	40 (15.0)	10 (3.8)	35 (13.2)	30 (11.3)	266 (33.8)
Ruvuma	101 (97.1)	3 (2.9)	-	-	-	-	104 (13.2)
Zanzibar	-	8 (100)	-	-	-	-	8 (1.0)
Total	529 (67.3)	84 (10.7)	93 (11.8)	10 (1.3)	35 (4.4)	35 (4.4)	786 (100)

Figures in brackets indicate the percentage of fish farms within each region and fish farms overall (total).

stocking density varied significantly from one region to another ($P < .0001$), with most fish stocked at a rate of 2 fish/m² (27.2%), followed by 3 fish/m² (22.5%) and 5–9 fish/m² (Table 6). There was great variation in the culture period to market size and the stocking density with no clear pattern linking stocking density to culture period and market size (Table 7).

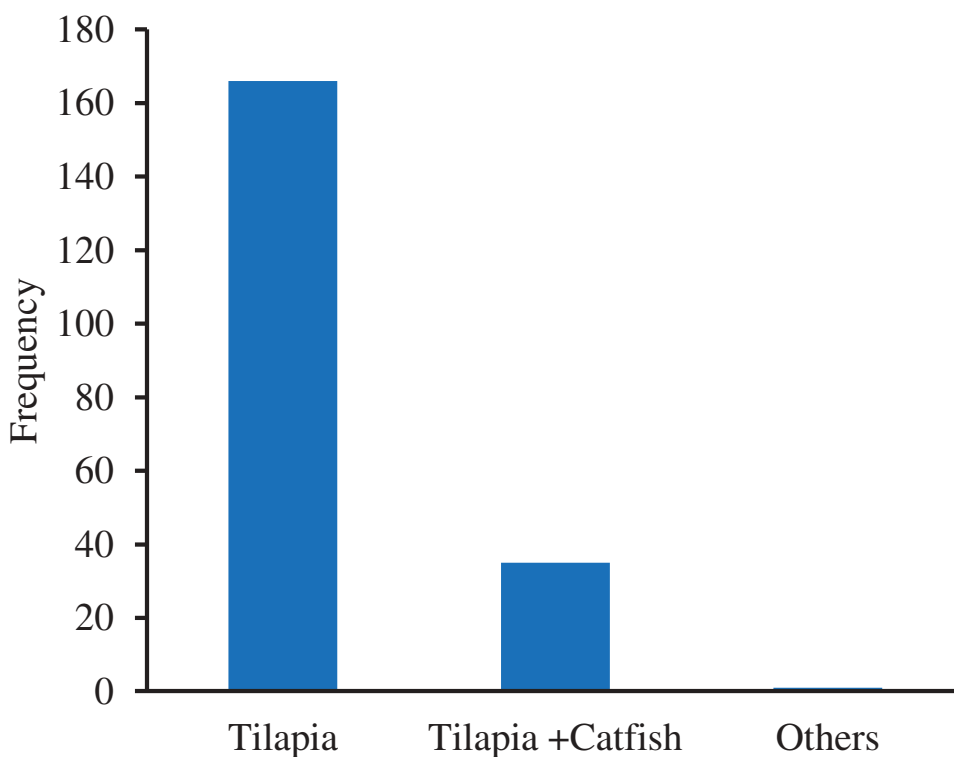


Figure 3. Dominant cultured fish species in Tanzania.

Local feed ingredients used by fish farmers

More than 80% of respondents relied on locally available feed ingredients as a major feed supplement for their cultured fish (Figure 4). However, the local feed ingredients used at the study sites varied significantly ($p < .0001$) from one region to another depending on availability. Feed ingredient availability was determined by factors such as production season, climatic conditions, geographical zone, and accessibility. The most commonly used local feed ingredient was maize bran, followed by Lake Victoria sardines, sunflower seed cake, rice bran and wheat pollard (Figure 5). In addition, a large range of other feed ingredients was used as a minor proportion of the diet such as

Table 5. Culture practices and production systems in Tanzania.

Culture practices	Production system				Chi-square
	Extensive	Intensive	Semi-intensive	Total	
Both	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	8 (100)	8 (4.0)	P = .94
Monoculture	2 (1.1)	7 (3.8)	177 (95.1)	186 (92.0)	
Polyculture	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	8 (100)	8 (4.0)	
Total	2 (1.0)	7 (3.5)	193 (95.5)	202 (100.0)	

Figures in brackets indicate percentage of respondents' production systems within culture practices, and culture practices overall (total).

Table 6. Fish stocking density of tilapia (fish/m²) in Tanzania.

Region	Stocking density						Total	Chi-square
	1	2	3	4	5–9	≥10		
Arusha	2 (5.3)	5 (13.2)	4 (10.5)	8 (21.0)	13 (34.2)	6 (15.8)	38 (18.8)	P < .001
Dar-es-Salam	1 (5.2)	0 (0.0)	2 (10.5)	7 (36.8)	4 (21.0)	5 (26.3)	19 (9.4)	
Kilima njaru	1 (4.3)	1 (4.3)	13 (56.5)	2 (8.7)	4 (17.4)	2 (8.7)	23 (16.3)	
Mbeya	1 (3.0)	22 (66.7)	7 (21.2)	0 (0.0)	3 (9.1)	0 (0.0)	33 (16.3)	
Mwanza	0 (0.0)	5 (14.3)	9 (25.7)	9 (25.7)	9 (25.7)	3 (8.6)	35 (17.3)	
Ruvuma	6 (13.0)	22 (47.8)	10 (21.7)	5 (10.9)	3 (6.5)	0 (0.0)	46 (22.8)	
Zanzibar	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	2 (25.0)	3 (37.5)	3 (37.5)	8 (4.0)	
Total	11 (5.5)	55 (27.2)	45 (22.5)	33 (16.3)	39 (19.3)	19 (9.4)	202 (100)	

Figures in brackets indicate the percentage of respondents' stocking density within region, and stocking density overall (total).

Table 7. Stocking density and culture period of tilapia per production cycle in Tanzania.

Stocking density, (fish/m ²)	Culture period, months					Total	Chi-square
	6	7	8	9	≥10		
1	4 (36.3)	1 (9.1)	2 (18.2)	0 (0.0)	4 (36.3)	11 (5.5)	P = .4631
2	18 (33.3)	3 (5.5)	14 (25.9)	2 (3.7)	17 (31.5)	54 (26.7)	
3	10 (22.7)	3 (6.8)	13 (29.5)	7 (15.9)	11 (25.0)	44 (21.8)	
4	12 (35.3)	3 (8.8)	10 (29.4)	2 (5.9)	7 (20.6)	34 (16.8)	
5–9	9 (45.0)	8 (40.0)	8 (40.0)	2 (10.0)	3 (15.0)	20 (10.0)	
≥10	7 (35.0)	0 (0.0)	8 (40.0)	2 (10.0)	3 (15.0)	20 (10.0)	
Total	61 (30.2)	18 (8.9)	56 (27.7)	15 (7.4)	52 (25.7)	202 (100)	

Figures in brackets indicate the percentage of respondents within stocking density, and stocking density in total.

soybean, cottonseed cake, freshwater shrimp, cattle blood, kitchen leftovers, and taro leaves. Moreover, only a minority (5–15%) of fish farmers located in urban areas, particularly Dar es Salaam, Arusha, and Mwanza, were relying on commercial fish feeds as supplement diet for their farmed fish (Figure 4).

Proximate analysis of feed ingredients

The CP content was medium to high (300 – >500 g/kg⁻¹ DM) in animal by-products, most agricultural by-products, plant leaves and weeds, aquatic plants and industrial by-products (Table 8).

The crude fat content was high (>100 g/kg⁻¹ DM) in some animal by-products (e.g., Lake Victoria sardines, Nile perch fish frames, housefly maggots, earthworms), and some agricultural by-products (e.g., full fat soybean, soybean, palm seed cake, sunflower seed cake, and coconut waste), while the crude fat content in most other feed ingredients was medium to low (100 – <50 g/kg⁻¹ DM) (Table 8).

The CF content was high in several agricultural by-products (e.g., rice bran, cottonseed cake, palm seed cake, sunflower seed cake), plant leaves and weeds (e.g., taro leaves, cassava leaves, sweet potato leaves, gallant soldier, and lettuce vegetable), aquatic plants and industrial by-products (i.e., brewery by-products).

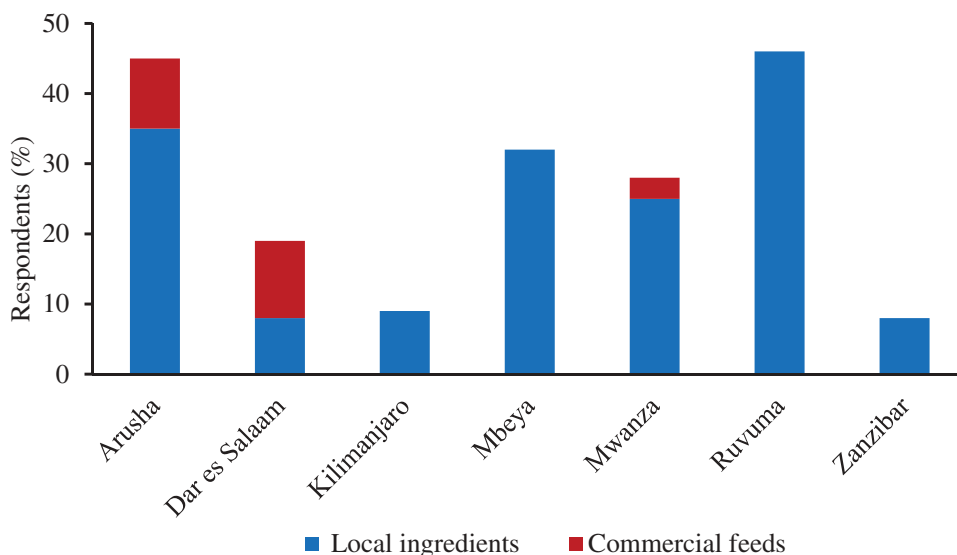


Figure 4. Local feed ingredients and commercial feeds used by tilapia fish farmers in Tanzania.

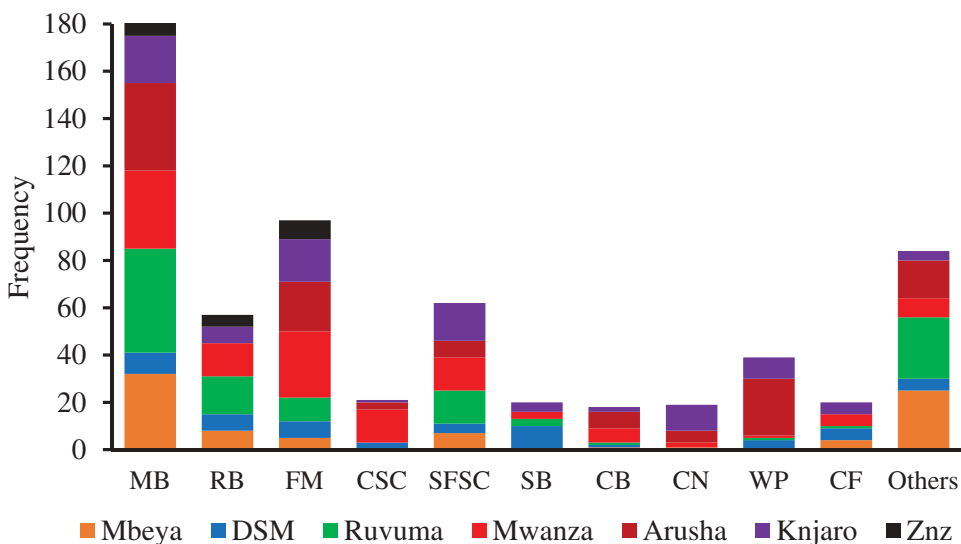


Figure 5. Local feed ingredients used by tilapia fish farmers in Tanzania. MB, maize bran; RB, rice bran; FM, fish meal (sardines); CSC, cottonseed cake; SFSC, sunflower seed cake; SB, soybean; CB, cattle blood; CN, *Caridina nilotica* (freshwater shrimp); WP, wheat pollard; CF, cassava flour.

Animal by-products were low in CF ($<35 \text{ g/kg}^{-1}$ DM), except prawn head waste and earthworms (Table 8), which were high in CF content.

Medium-to-high content ($90\text{--}684 \text{ g/kg}^{-1}$ DM) of nitrogen-free extracts (NFE) was found in agricultural by-products, aquatic plants, and industrial by-products (Table 8). The highest content of NFE was found in wheat

Table 8. Chemical composition of local feed ingredient samples (g kg⁻¹ DM).

No.	Feed Ingredient	Ash	CP	CF	EE	NFE
<i>Animal by-products</i>						
1	Cattle blood	33	914	0	2	50
2	Lake Victoria sardines	223	651	3	101	22
3	Freshwater shrimp	588	280	23	96	14
4	Cock shrimp (marine)	184	748	19	21	28
5	Nile perch fish frames	470	358	7	153	11
6	Prawn head waste	258	511	129	80	22
7	Housefly maggot	69	481	10	249	192
8	Earthworm	103	658	37	134	68
<i>Agricultural by-products</i>						
9	Full fat soybean	56	437	64	170	273
10	Rice bran	216	93	214	94	383
11	Soy bean	55	435	89	156	266
12	Maize bran	60	131	58	175	576
13	Cotton seed cake	69	303	208	71	349
14	Palm seed cake	35	152	136	149	528
15	Wheat pollard	45	175	47	49	684
16	Sunflower seed cake	211	268	244	119	158
17	Coconut waste	61	148	213	487	92
<i>Plant leaves and weeds</i>						
18	Taro leaf	174	292	174	59	301
19	Moringa leaf	119	298	52	52	478
20	Cassava leaf	98	397	113	32	360
21	Lettuce vegetable	303	235	146	13	304
22	Wandering Jew	247	186	174	5	388
23	Gallant soldier	100	241	232	68	359
24	Sweet potato leaf	144	227	133	47	450
<i>Aquatic plants</i>						
25	Azolla	223	235	128	16	398
26	Water lettuce	209	228	133	29	400
27	Duck weed	200	198	118	27	456
<i>Industrial by-products</i>						
28	Spent brewer's grain	41	253	174	85	447
29	Spent brewer's yeast	35	350	0	5	610
30	Local brewery waste	43	194	142	41	579

CP = crude protein, CF = crude fiber, EE = ether extract (lipid content), NFE = nitrogen-free extract.

pollard (684 g kg⁻¹ DM), followed by spent brewer's yeast (610 g kg⁻¹ DM) and maize bran (576 g kg⁻¹ DM).

There were large differences in ash contents between the feed ingredients analyzed (Table 8), with high values recorded from freshwater shrimp (588 g kg⁻¹ DM) and Nile perch fish frames (470 g kg⁻¹ DM). The ash content was also high (>200 g/kg⁻¹ DM) in Lake Victoria sardines, prawn head waste, rice bran, sunflower cake, several plant leaves and weeds, and aquatic plants.

The chemical composition of commercial fish feeds sold in Tanzania showed a large variation in CP, CF and EE content (Table 9). The CP content ranged from 229 to 536 g kg⁻¹, but was mostly in the range 229 to 334 g kg⁻¹.

Table 9. Chemical composition (g kg^{-1}) of commercial fish feed imports and local fish feeds available in Tanzania.

No.	Feed sample	DM	Ash	CP	CF
1	Commercial feed (Eden Agri-Aqua Ltd)	917	119	238	63
2	Commercial feed (Big Fish Safina Ltd)	916	162	313	73
3	Imported fish pellets (Denmark)	919	120	536	13
4	Fish pellets (Harsho Aqua Pellet Ltd)	896	128	334	117
5	Fish pellets (Salibaba Pellet Co Ltd)	890	119	301	51
6	Fish pellets (Five Star Ltd)	872	250	229	96
7	Imported fish pellets (Kenya)	889	131	320	152
8	Locally made fish feed (Fish farmer-Meru)	884	216	271	141
9	Locally made fish feed (Fish Farmers-Mwanga)	878	256	234	35
10	Soy bean meal powder (Eden Agri-Aqua Ltd)	932	245	323	84

DM = dry matter, CP = crude protein, CF = crude fiber.

Table 10. Amino acid analysis of feed ingredient samples (g kg^{-1} DM).

No.	Feed sample	Tryptophan	Lysine	Methionine + cysteine
1	Earthworm	5	52	23
2	Housefly maggot	6	69	20
3	Cattle blood	18	53	27
4	Cock shrimp (marine)	7	67	21
5	Freshwater shrimp	6	63	20
6	Prawn head waste	6	56	15
7	Nile perch fish frames	0	1	13
8	Lake Victoria sardines	4	39	20
9	Soy bean	4	34	20
10	Full fat soybean	4	28	17
11	Brewer's spent yeast	5	38	14
12	Taro leaf	3	29	16
13	Cassava leaf	4	30	9
14	Gallant soldier	2	23	5
15	Lettuce vegetables	4	35	11
16	Sweet potato leaf	3	28	4
17	Azolla	16	26	13

Amino acid content in selected feed ingredients

Animal by-products, except for Nile perch fish frames, were high in lysine ($36\text{--}64 \text{ g kg}^{-1}$ DM), tryptophan ($4\text{--}17 \text{ g kg}^{-1}$ DM), and methionine plus cysteine ($14\text{--}26 \text{ g kg}^{-1}$ DM) (Table 10). Agricultural by-products (i.e., soybean and full-fat soybean), plant leaves and weeds (i.e., taro leaves, cassava leaves, sweet potato leaves, and gallant soldier weed), aquatic plants (i.e., azolla and lettuce vegetable) and spent brewer's yeast were intermediate in lysine ($21\text{--}37 \text{ g kg}^{-1}$ DM) and methionine plus cysteine ($4\text{--}19 \text{ g kg}^{-1}$ DM), but high in tryptophan ($2\text{--}15 \text{ g kg}^{-1}$ DM).

Discussion

An investigative field survey was performed from January 2017 to February 2018, to evaluate fish farming practices, and availability and

chemical composition of local feed ingredients used by fish farmers in different regions of Tanzania.

Overall, the majority of respondents involved in fish farming were males (82.7%). The present finding was in agreement with findings by Mwaijande and Lugendo (2015) on randomly selected respondents engaged in fish farming in Tanzania. According to FAO (2014), 20% of fish farming operations in Africa are run by women, which compares well with the mean value of 17.3% found for Tanzania in the present study. However, participation by women in fish farming operations varies greatly between African countries (FAO 2014; Jahan et al. 2015; Velu et al. 2009). In many tribal cultures in Tanzania, women are expected to perform reproductive roles and to take responsibility for household management, food provisioning and nursing tasks, which hinder them to participate in paid economic activities. Equal gender participation helps to increase fish farming productivity (Jahan, Ahmed, and Belton 2010) and fish consumption within the household (Heck, Béné, and Reyes-Gaskin 2007; Jahan, Ahmed, and Belton 2010).

In the present study, a large proportion of respondents in the age-groups of 20–40 years (50.0%), 40–60 years (55.0%) and >60 years (43.3%) had attained primary education. Similar findings were reported by Chenyambuga et al. (2014) and Mwaijande and Lugendo (2015). Moreover, the age distribution of the respondents, with the largest proportion aged 20–60 years, was comparable to that reported previously from the Morogoro (Chenyambuga et al. 2014) and for Dar es Salaam regions (Kyele 2016). Overall, the majority of tilapia fish farmers surveyed owned their fish farms individually (76.8%), which was in good agreement with the findings by Chenyambuga et al. (2014).

There was great variation in the size of fishponds, tanks, and cages between fish farming systems within regions, and also between regions, confirming earlier findings for Tanzania (FAO 2006b; Kaliba et al. 2006; Lamtane 2008; Mwaijande and Lugendo 2015). This can be explained by existing conditions on each farm including the nature of soils, climatic conditions, availability of labors, building materials, investment capital, and geographical location. Earthen ponds were the most common fish farming system in all regions except Dar es Salaam. Dominance of earthen pond in Tanzanian fish farming has also been reported by Kaliba et al. (2006) and Rukanda and Sigurgeirsson (2016).

Cultured fish were mostly (87.6%) raised semi-intensively, which was in line with other findings (Chenyambuga et al. 2014; Kaliba et al. 2006; Madalla, Agbo, and Jauncey 2013). In agreement with Mwaijande and Lugendo (2015), we found that tilapia was the most commonly cultured fish species in Tanzania, while a limited number of fish farmers practice polyculture of tilapia and African catfish. Mixed-sex tilapia monoculture is reported to be the most economically vulnerable culture strategy, with net returns of only 2–4% (Kaliba et al. 2006). However, there appears to be only a marginal difference in production costs in switching from one tilapia culture strategy to another (Kaliba et al. 2006).

Moreover, the net return increases significantly when catfish predation is introduced into mixed-sex tilapia monoculture, while switching from mixed-sex tilapia to hand-sexed all-male tilapia results in an even greater increase in net returns (Kaliba et al. 2006). Thus, a change in the culture system to either polyculture of mixed-sex tilapia and catfish or to hand-sexed all-male tilapia monoculture would markedly reduce the economic vulnerability, and thereby improve the robustness and sustainability, of tilapia culture in Tanzania.

There was a large variation in stocking density between fish farms within regions and also between regions, as reported previously for Tanzania (Mallya 2007). However, there was no clear pattern between stocking density and the culture period to market size for tilapia in the present study. The carrying capacity of a pond is determined by dissolved oxygen concentration and buildup of metabolites (e.g., ammonia) and other factors that result in poor water quality. Thus, the stocking density and feeding strategy have a major impact on fish growth rate and biomass yield. In addition, the use of mixed-sex or sex-reversed tilapia affects the culture time to market size, with a shorter culture time expected from sex-reversed tilapia due to higher growth rate (Mbiru et al. 2016). Moreover, in pond-cultured sex-reversed tilapia, there is a negative correlation between stocking density, growth rate and survival rate (Diana, Lin, and Yi 1996; Kapinga and Kasozi 2014). Diana, Lin, and Yi (1996) observed the highest growth rate and survival rate in sex-reversed tilapia fed to 50% satiation in fertilized earthen pond and stocked with 3 fish/m². Conversely, the highest economic return was obtained at a stocking density of 6 fish/m² (Diana, Lin, and Yi 1996).

Traditionally, tilapia fish farmers in Tanzania feed their fish with locally available feed ingredients of both plant and animal origin (Chenyambuga et al. 2014; Kapinga and Kasozi 2014; Mwaijande and Lugendo 2015; Shoko et al. 2016). It was found in the present study that more than 80% of respondents relied on locally available feed ingredients as a major feed supplement for their cultured fish. This was comparable to the findings from eight regions of Tanzania reported by Mwaijande and Lugendo (2015). However, the local feed ingredients used in the present study varied between regions, depending on availability. Other studies have found that the local feed ingredients most commonly used by tilapia fish farmers in Tanzania are maize bran, kitchen leftovers, garden by-products, rice bran, banana leaves, sweet potato leaves, fish meal and poultry by-products (Chenyambuga, Madalla, and Mnembuka 2012; Chenyambuga et al. 2014; Meiludie 2013; Mwaijande and Lugendo 2015). Moreover, local feed ingredients such as blood, sunflower meal, azolla meal, moringa leaf meal, cassava leaf meal, and soybean and cottonseed meal have been shown to be efficiently utilized by tilapia (John 2015; Madalla, Agbo, and Jauncey 2013). Kaliba et al. (2006) reported that tilapia fish farmers in Tanzania mostly use maize bran as a supplement feed and as a manure to fertilize their fish farms. Similarly, Munguti et al. (2012) reported that maize

bran is a commonly used ingredient by fish farmers in Tanzania, Kenya, and Rwanda. The commonly used local feed ingredients found in our study were also similar to those reported previously for the fish farming sector across East Africa (Munguti et al. 2012). However, the minority of tilapia fish farmers located in urban areas like Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, and Arusha are relying on commercial fish feeds as supplement diets for their cultured fish. This situation is attributed by the availability of local feed ingredients, the high price of commercial feeds (1.08 to 1.51 \$/kg of feed), and the availability of investment capital. The use of commercial feeds in fish farms leads to high production costs, accounting for more than 50% of the total production costs, which is uneconomical and give a low return. Therefore, the production of fish diets by mixing up more than one local feed ingredients available close to fish farms will improve fish production and lower production costs.

The chemical composition of collected common feed ingredients was generally within the range reported by others (Chiba ; Madalla, Agbo, and Jauncey 2013; Mohanta, Subramanian, and Korikanthimath 2016; Mugo-Bundi et al. 2015; Munguti et al. 2012; Mutayoba et al. 2011; NRC (National Research Council) 2011). However, some values for individual feed ingredients varied from those reported previously for samples collected in East Africa. The high crude fat content of housefly maggots was in agreement with findings by Aniebo and Owen (2010) and Pretorius (2011). Munguti et al. (2012) also report high crude fat content for Lake Victoria sardines and freshwater shrimps. As expected, animal by-products were low in CF content, except Nile perch fish frames, prawn head waste and housefly maggots, which had high CF content. This is an artifact related to the method used for CF analysis (McDonald et al. 2002). Gut material in animal by-products (except for the gastro-intestinal tract with contents) should by definition not contain plant fibers, and therefore the CF found can be explained by bones (fish) and chitin (insects) in these products, both resulting in false CF values. In general, a medium-high content of NFE was found in agricultural by-products, aquatic plants, and industrial by-products. The highest content of NFE was found in wheat pollard (684 g kg⁻¹ DM), spent brewer's yeast (610 g kg⁻¹ DM) and maize bran (576 g kg⁻¹ DM). Munguti et al. (2012) reported comparable NFE values for wheat bran collected in Rwanda and Kenya, while Madalla (2008) reported comparable NFE content in moringa leaves, soybean and wheat pollard from Tanzania. However, Munguti et al. (2012) reported higher NFE content (591 g kg⁻¹ DM) for maize bran in Rwanda, but considerably lower NFE content (349 g/kg⁻¹ DM) for maize bran in Kenya. There were great differences in ash contents of feed ingredients analyzed in the present study, with very high values found in many fish by-products, but also in some agricultural by-products, plant leaves and aquatic plants. In contrast, unexpectedly low ash content was reported for Lake Victoria freshwater shrimps by Munguti et al. (2012, 228

g kg⁻¹ DM), Mugo-Bundi et al. (2015, 9.8 g kg⁻¹ DM), and Obwanga 2017 (19.1 g kg⁻¹ DM). The variation in similar feed ingredients between studies can be due to many factors, such as animal species, contamination, processing, handling and storage, climate conditions, production season, geographical zone, soil type and stage of maturity at harvest (Church 1980).

The chemical composition of commercial fish feeds sold in Tanzania showed large variations in CP, CF, and crude fat content, as also reported for commercial fish feeds sold in Pakistan and Egypt (El-Sayed 2004, 2014; Khan et al. 2012). However, the CP content in the commercial feeds analyzed in the present study fell within the CP range required for proper growth of broodstock (40–45% CP), fry/fingerlings (40–50% CP), and grow-out (28–32% CP) of tilapia species (Abdel-Tawwab et al. 2010; Stickney 1997).

We found that animal by-products, except for Nile perch fish frames, were high in lysine, tryptophan, and methionine plus cysteine. Agricultural by-products (i.e., soybean and full-fat soybean), plant leaves and weeds (i.e., taro leaves, cassava leaves, sweet potato leaves, and gallant soldier weed), aquatic plants (i.e., azolla and lettuce vegetable), and spent brewer's yeast were intermediate in lysine and methionine plus cysteine, but high in tryptophan (0.2–1.5%). This is consistent with findings reported from previous studies (Barroso et al. 2014; Kubiriza et al. 2018). According to El-Sayed (2004), the essential amino acid (EAA) requirement for tilapia species is in the range 1.43–1.62% for lysine, 0.17–0.6% for tryptophan, 0.53–1.13% for methionine and 0.53–2.1% for cysteine. In other studies, the EAA requirement for cultured tilapia was estimated to be 1.0% for tryptophan, 5.1% for lysine and 2.7% for methionine (NRC 1993; Santiago and Lovell 1988; Wilson, Robinson, and Poe 1981). Thus, there are large discrepancies between the reported requirement for lysine, tryptophan, and methionine in tilapia. However, our findings indicate that several local feed ingredients have the potential to supply the EAA required for proper fish growth and health.

Conclusion

Novel data on nutritive value of locally available feed ingredients from different regions of Tanzania are reported. The data will provide guidance for the production of good quality feeds of low cost. Thus, a balanced essential amino acid profile can be obtained by mixing more than one local feed ingredient. This information is urgently needed to improve the production and productivity of fish farming in Tanzania. Moreover, the information can be used as a platform for the development of feeding strategies for cultured tilapia species based on locally available feed ingredients.

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