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Image pearl culture: A new aquaculture approach in bangladesh

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An experiment was carried out for the development of freshwater image pearl culture technology has been conducted at the freshwater station, Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute, Mymensingh for a period of eight months from March to October 2017. A total of 1200 mussels (*Lamellidens marginalis*) were operated with the paraffin made image. The single image was inoculated per mussel. The operated mussels were stocked in the pond and cultured through the net-bag hanging method in 1-1.5m water level of the pond @80 mussels/decimal and 30 fishes/decimal (*Catla catla* 6, *Labeo rohita* 10, *Cirrhinus cirrhosus* 10, *Labeo calbasu* 4). Organic and inorganic fertilizer was given fortnightly to the pond @ 5 kg cow-dung, 0.125 kg T.S.P. and 0.1 kg urea per decimal. During the experimental period temperature (oC), Dissolved oxygen (mg/l), Alkalinity (mg/l), pH, NH₄--N (mg/l), Ca²⁺ (mg/l) and Phytoplankton (x10³cells/L) were ranged from 26.57±0.91, 5.90±0.06, 135±5.7, 7.77±0.10, 0.05±0.02, 25±3.1 and 50.25±6.85 respectively. Survival of mussel and growth of pearl were monitored once in a month. After 8 months culture, the survival rate of operated mussels was found 61% while image pearl production rate was 46% and the layer of nacre on the paraffin made images ranged between 0.5-0.9 mm.

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