

Successful Culture, Feed Development and Breeding of Ornamental Fishes in Pakistan



Challenge

Ornamental fish production is an important component of the aquaculture industry in several nations. However, there is no local production and supply of ornamental fish currently in Pakistan. The number of households interested in keeping ornamental fish in aquarium is increasing rapidly. At the moment the ornamental fish imports cost \$ 0.40 million foreign exchange annually. Due to this import, the price of ornamental fish is Rs. 100 – 400 per pair. Therefore, the success of ornamental fish culture in the country could meet the local demand and also provide an additional income to the farmers. There is a dire need for development of ornamental fish breeding and culture practices and technology in Pakistan to help in saving foreign exchange and also provide a base for local production of ornamental fish.



PARC Intervention

Considering the importance of ornamental fishes, a project entitled “*Culture and breeding of ornamental fishes (Gold fishes, Koi carp and Guppies) and feed development for their different developmental stages*” was undertaken by Aquaculture and Fisheries Program (A&FP) at ASI NARC to study culture and feed development of freshwater ornamental fishes in the country. This project has helped in establishing ornamental fish culture, breeding and rearing facilities at A&FP and provided opportunity to sell the locally bred fish to the retailers at cheaper rates to improve their income. It has also helped to lessen the burden on foreign exchange being incurred on ornamental fish import.

Aquarium keeping is though the most popular hobby with millions of enthusiasts world wide, however recent advances in fish husbandry and aquarium equipments have further facilitated the hobby

Results

Ornamental fish culture and breeding technology has been developed successfully by Aquaculture and Fisheries Program at ASI NARC. Success in breeding of ornamental fishes (Hifin Koi carp, Local Koi Carp, Shubunkin, Double tail goldfish, Guppies and Mollies) has been achieved. Balanced and economical feed for color enhancement has been formulated with very good results. People have expressed keen interest in purchasing feed and ornamental fishes bred by A&FP at cheaper rates of Rs. 20 – 150 per pair as compared to imported fish rates stated above. 400 customers (retailers and households) have purchased fishes worth Rs. 600,000 in six month period from A&FP. Keeping in view this initial demand, it is anticipated that thousands of households would get benefited from this low price of ornamental fishes in the country.

