

Use of Larva Meal as an Alternate Protein Source to Soya Bean and Fish Meal in Backyard Poultry in Low Income Areas of Country

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All areas of a country can never be same so as the residents at different localities. Backyard poultry is a source of edible protein source for the low-income area residents that they can earn by selling in the high demand areas of the country. Larva meal is a cheap and rich source of protein diet. It contains crude protein (CP) = 43% - 60%, unsaturated fatty acids = 27% - 75% and metabolizable energy (ME) = 24 MJ/kg DM. They also contain minerals like potassium, calcium, phosphorous, and zinc [1,2]. They are used in feeding poultry, fisheries, piglets and research is being done for its use in ruminants. Commonly black soldier fly and housefly larvae are used. Larva meal can replace soy bean meal and fish meal from 27 to 100% depending upon the specie of the animal [3,4]. They can be used as fresh and live in backyard poultry as well as killed and dried to be mixed with other feed. 1kg of larva biomass can be produced from 2kg of substrate biomass [5]. Black Soldier Fly (BSF) larvae and Housefly larvae are commonly used. Housefly has lifecycle of 10 days as compared to that of Black Soldier Fly that has life cycle 45 days. Moreover, Black Soldier Fly is native to U.S.A, South and North America whereas Housefly is found everywhere. So, it is convenient to use Housefly to produce larva. The ideal temperature for larva production is 30° to 40°C and moisture content of air is 75%. Housefly larva can be best reared on substrates like poultry droppings, cow manure, rotten fruits and vegetables, an-

imal offal. In this activity wheat bran and cotton seed cake were used [6,7]. Then larva is harvested either by floatation method or by screening method. Then larva can be killed by boiling or using NaCl and then dried in oven or sun. There is need to commercialize it and persuade investors to invest in larva production making it a productive industry that will help backyard poultry industry [8].

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