

**THE PRODUCTION OF CATFISH (*Clarias gariepinus*) IN  
FLOATING BAMBOO NET-CAGE SYSTEM IN NIGERIA**

**<sup>1</sup>S.O. OTUBUSIN AND <sup>2</sup>O.O. OLAITAN**

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<sup>1</sup>Department of Aquaculture and Fisheries Management, University of Agriculture, P.M.B. 2240, Abeokuta, Nigeria.

<sup>2</sup>CHI Limited, AJANLA FARMS, Ibadan, Lagos-Ibadan Express Way, G.P.O. Box 2026, Ibadan, Nigeria.

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**ABSTRACT**

Catfish (*Clarias gariepinus*) juveniles average weight, 80g, were stocked at 308 fish/m<sup>3</sup> in a lockable bamboo lattices/net-cage (6m<sup>3</sup> effective water volume) moored in a 2-hectare irrigation reservoir at Ajanla Farms, South-West Nigeria. The fish were fed *ad libitum* twice daily with a 45% crude protein pelleted feed and were harvested after 153 days (about 5 months) culture period. At harvest the following data were obtained. Final weight per fish, 722g; daily weight gain, 4.2g/d; actual total fish production, 621kg (46.9% of number stocked); feed conversion ratio, 2.12. A mortality of 1.84% was recorded during the culture period while 51.67% of the stock escaped through leakage caused by a damage to the bottom of the cage (careless towing) during harvesting activities. Recommendations were made towards better commercialization of the system through organized private sector participation.

**Keywords:** Commercial production, catfish, floating cage.