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SANOLIFE™ PRO-TAB: A NOVEL DIRECT FED MICROBIAL WAFER IMPROVES SURVIVAL, GROWTH AND FEED EFFICIENCY IN COMMERCIAL RED TILAPIA CAGE CULTURE, THAILAND

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Nile tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) is among the most widely farmed fish species globally, yet increasing farming intensification combined with environmental stressors associated with climate change, notably declining dissolved oxygen concentrations and rising water temperatures that favour pathogen proliferation, present growing challenges to nursery and grow-out production. This commercial trial evaluated the efficacy of a *Bacillus*-based direct-fed microbial (DFM) product "Sanolife™ PRO-TAB", delivered in a novel wafer presentation, on the performance of red tilapia during the nursery and pre-grow-out stages in floating river cages in Thailand.

Red tilapia fingerlings (mean initial weight: 25 g) were stocked at 1,600 fish per cage (3 m × 6 m × 3 m) and assigned to either a control or treatment (PRO-TAB) group (n = 2 cages per group). The PRO-TAB treatment was administered daily at 3% of total daily feed ration over a 34-day trial period. Key performance indicators: feed conversion ratio (FCR), growth performance, and survival, were assessed at Day of Culture (DOC) 34.

PRO-TAB supplementation significantly improved all measured performance parameters. FCR improved from 1.69 (control) to 1.34 (PRO-TAB), representing a 20.7% improvement in feed efficiency. Growth performance in the PRO-TAB group was 12.6% superior to controls (**Fig. 1**). Kaplan-Meier survival analysis revealed a highly significant difference in cumulative survival between groups (control: 79.81% *vs*. PRO-TAB: 92.63%; $p < 0.0001$), corresponding to a reduction in mortality from 20.2% to 7.4% (**Fig. 2**).

These findings demonstrate that Sanolife™ PRO-TAB supplementation substantially enhances production performance in red tilapia commercial cage culture, with meaningful improvements in feed efficiency, growth, and survival, supporting its potential as a practical and economically viable intervention for farmers operating under intensified and thermally stressed conditions.

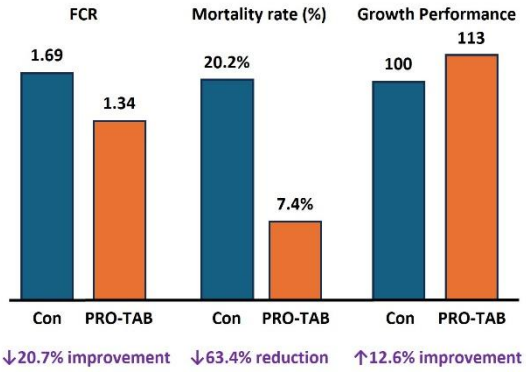


Fig. 1. Sanolife™ PRO-TAB supplementation improved FCR by 20.7% (1.34 *vs*. 1.69), reduced mortality by 63.4% (7.4% *vs*. 20.2%), and increased growth by 12.6% relative to control over the 34-day trial.

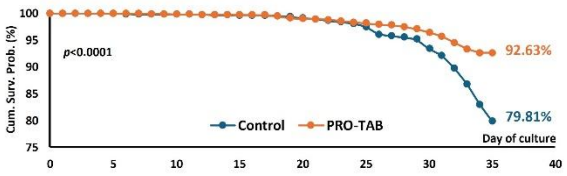


Fig. 2. Kaplan-Meier cumulative survival of red tilapia over the 34-day cage trial. Sanolife™ PRO-TAB sig. improved survival vs. control (92.63% vs. 79.81%; $p < 0.0001$).