

## Grey Mullet Broodstock feed

A new broodstock feed for Flat Head Grey Mullet (*Mugil cephalus*) is available for commercialisation from CIBA, Chennai. This feed is a result of project work aimed at optimal broodstock feed for Grey mullet captive maturation in cement tanks. Special emphasis was an ovarian development in females and spermiation in males.

Focus in this broodstock feed development has been on achieving good number of the stock with vitellogenic oocytes three months before the breeding season and having sustained oocyte growth till spawning. The ingredients have been chosen to provide complete maturation enhancing factors.

Proteins, energy, lipids and fatty acids, minerals and vitamins have been incorporated according to the specific need of the maturing mullet during Vitellogenesis. Various special additives have been included to provide natural maturation enhancers, pigments and gustatory stimulants. The formulation ensures complete utilisation of all nutrients by the fish for maintaining all round health and rapid gonadal growth. Selected high quality raw ingredients such high quality fish meal, fish oils, phospholipids, combination of high quality vegetable proteins provide balanced amino acids, Fatty acids (EPA, DHA), minerals and vitamins.

Having thoroughly studied the general reproductive physiology of this species, two types of formulations are provided-“feed for spawning season” and “feed for pre-spawning season”. Using these feeds, large depositions of adipose tissue (storage fat inside the body) are encouraged which gets mobilised into oocytes as yolk during the process of Vitellogenesis, ensuring large sized eggs and hatchings with sufficient endogenous nutrients for larval development, and thereby ensuing that the next generation of fish gets the best start in life.

This is a sinking feed (3 mm or 6 mm), since mullets like to feed on the bottom. At the same time, the high physical quality of the pellets manufactured using latest and sophisticated machineries contribute in maintaining the tank water clean and healthy environment. The feed formulae can be suitably adjusted if required to prepare floating feed, without compromising the quality. Floating feed with similar nutritional qualities can also be prepared with slight feed manufacturing procedures.