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Research Article

Apparent Digestibility and Utilization of Protein and Phosphorus in diets of incorporated with Sprouted Sorghum, Phytase and Protease Enzymes for African Catfish (*Clarias gariepinus*)

Abstract

Apparent digestibility, deposition and retention of crude protein and phosphorus were determined for 30%, 35%, 50% and 55% CP diets incorporated with sprouted sorghum, 750, 1000 and 1250 units kg^{-1} phytase and protease enzymes, fed to African catfish fingerlings. All digestibility coefficients significantly differed ($p < 0.05$) among diets with the (92.66%) observed for phosphorus in 30% and 35% CP diets with 1250 units of phytase, while that of protein (81.49%) was in 50% CP and 55% CP diets with 1250 units of protease. Crude protein deposition and retention significantly differed ($p < 0.05$) with the highest (705.10 and 10.03 respectively) recorded in diets with 1250 protease while that of phosphorus did not in both cases ($p > 0.05$). This demonstrated that protease was more useful in starter (high protein) diets and phytase enzyme in grower (low protein) diets and forms a basis for efficient use of phytase and protease enzymes in catfish diet formulations for different growth stages.

Introduction

The North African catfish (*Clarias gariepinus*) is the main farmed fish species in Africa due to its fast growth and tolerance to handling and stress [1,2], its culture is dependent on supply of quality diets which comprise about 60–70% of the operational costs. Raising catfish from fry/post hatch to table/market size requires diets with 55%–30% CP for normal growth (0.5–1 kg in 6–8 months). Such high quality diets have historically been made from fish meal. However human consumption of small pelagic fish species like silver fish used in production of fish meal reduced its supply and use in fish diets due to its high cost. This led to adoption of plant protein due to wide distribution and relatively low cost. Plant ingredients however contain antinutrients including the heat stable phytic acid that bind and reduce digestion of nutrients to support normal fish growth. Poorly digested feed pollute the environment through nutrient enrichment reducing the economic and social viability of fish farming. Unlike other antinutrients, phytic acid is found in almost all plant material [3,4]. It is not economically destroyed by a number of conventional food processing techniques including heat treatments like roasting [5]. Among techniques to unlock nutrients in plant material, sprouting is an ancient practice

especially in legume and cereals. According to [6,7], sprouting activates a number of naturally occurring enzymes in plant material including phytase that exist in insoluble, low activity (210–670 U kg^{-1}). The increase in enzymatic activity breaks down antinutrients into simple, easily absorbed nutrients. Sprouting reduced phytic acid subsequently increasing phosphorus and protein in plant fish diets and hypo-allergic baby weaning diets respectively [8]. Incorporation of sprouted sorghum into carbohydrate rich foods is also widely practiced to induce fermentation during which complex starch is reduced to simple readily assimilated glucose. To reduce processing time, most enzymes observed during sprouting have been extracted and packaged for a number of industrial processes. This not only made them expensive but also altered their efficiency because a single plant ingredient can have different antinutrients thus requiring different enzymes whose ratio in nature have not yet documented. For fish feed, enzyme sources that cope with high pelleting temperatures ($> 700^{\circ}C$), variations in diet composition and physiology of the digestive tract among species enzymes are required. Due to scanty information on digestibility of diets incorporated with sprouted grain and purified enzymes, effects of sprouted sorghum, phytase and protease enzymes on apparent digestibility of organic matter, crude protein and phosphorus was evaluated to guide efficient enzyme use.

Materials and Methods

Experimental design

Two cascading experiments of completely randomized factorial design were conducted. The first assessed the effect of dietary enzyme types and the second assessed the effect of 750, 1000 and 1250 units of phytase and protease on digestibility of catfish diets.

The first experiment was of a 4 by 4 randomized factorial design in which diets of 30%, 35%, 50% and 55% CP were each incorporated with sprouted sorghum, 750 units of phytase and protease with feed samples without enzyme as negative controls. This resulted into 16 experimental diets that were randomly assigned to 48 glass tanks in three replicates and used to assess the effect of enzyme type on digestibility. After results of the first experiment showed that apparent digestibility of diets incorporated with phytase and protease were higher than for the control and sorghum, the second experiment started.

The second experiment was of a 4 by 6 randomized factorial design. Diets of 30%, 35%, 50% and 55% CP were each incorporated with 750, 1000 and 1250 units kg⁻¹ of phytase and protease enzymes. This gave rise to 24 enzyme /diet treatments which were randomly assigned to 72 glass tanks in triplicates and used to assess the effect of enzyme amount/level on digestibility.

Formulation of experimental diets

Diets of 30% and 35%, 50% and 55% CP were formulated using Feed Win Least Cost computer software, developed by Practical Training Center (PTC+), 1999 (currently AERES Training Centre International), Barneveld, Netherlands. For the first study, each diets was incorporated with 0.15gkg⁻¹ of phytase enzyme (*Bacillus lincheniformis* 5000AUG⁻¹ (® KOFFOZYME Israel), 0.00125gkg⁻¹ of protease enzyme; (*Trichoderma reesei*, 600,000 AUG⁻¹ (®Cibenza, Novus international, USA) all worth 750FTUkg⁻¹.and 100gkg⁻¹ of sprouted sorghum flour. A portion in each case was not incorporated with any of the enzymes and served as a negative control (Table 1a). For the second experiment, 0.2g for 1000 units and 0.25g for 1250 and for protease 0.125g was for 750 units, 0.167 were for 1000 units and 0.208 g for 1250 units/kg-1 (Table 1b). All the diets were incorporated with chromium (iii) oxide (Cr O) as inert marker at a rate of 0.05% (50g chromium (iii) in 10kg) (grade (Table 1c) [9].

The diets and enzymes were measured using a digital scale (Sartorius AG Germany, CPA52025 DS), to the nearest 0.01, mixed into water and then mixed into each diet category. The diet-enzyme mixture was left to stand for 40 minutes as reaction time and pelleted sinking 2mm diameter pellets at 56 -70°C (MUSA BODY, pelleting machine Kampala, Uganda). The pelleted diets were dried under a well-ventilated Iron roofed shade for two days. They were after packed in 2kg water proof laminated plastic/ polyethene bags and kept in wooden shelves at room conditions.

Table 1a: The 16 diets used to assess the effect of incorporating sprouted sorghum, phytase and protease enzymes in diets on digestibility of crude protein, nutrient utilisation and growth of catfish fry.

Diet category	Control				750 Phytase				750 Protease				Sorghum			
	30%	35%	50%	55%	30%	35%	50%	55%	30%	35%	50%CP	55%	30%	35%	50%	55%
Cassava flour	4.2	3	0	0	4.19	3.14	0.14	0.14	4.05	3.00	0.01	0.01	3.2	3	0	0
Wheat pollard	10	10	4	0.45	10	10	4	0.5	10.15	10.15	4	0.45	10	10	4	0
Maize bran	10	8.2	0	0	10	8.05	0	0	10	8.05	0	0	10	7	0	0
Soy bean	42	41	13.85	0.4	42	41	13.7	0.45	42	41	13.6	0.4	42	41	12	0.3
Bush beans	10	6	0	0	10	6	0	0	10	6	0	0	10	7	0.5	0
Fish meal	10	20	80	95	10	20	80	95	10	20	80	95	10	20	80	95
Lysine	3	4	0.1	2	3	4	0.1	2	3	4	0.1	2	3	3.2	0.2	2
Methionine	2	2	1.1	1	2	2	1.1	1	2	2	1.1	1	2	2	1	1
Cotton seed cake	2	2	0.15	0.35	2	2	0.15	0.1	2	2	0.4	0.35	2	2	0.5	0
Fish oil	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	0
Vit & Minerals	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1
Citric acid	3	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	3	1	0	0
Table salt	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.09875	0.09875	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Calcium carbonate	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
Aflatoxin binder	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Protease	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.000125	0.000125	0.000125	0.000125	0	0	0	0
Phytase	0	0	0	0	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sorghum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

*The fish premix used was manufactured by Novus international (USA) and supplied by NUTRINOVA International (Uganda).

Table 1b: The 12 diets used to assess the optimal level of phytase enzyme among 750, 1000 and 1250 FTU for highest digestibility in diets of catfish (FTU).

Diet category	750 Phytase				1000 Phytase				1250 Phytase			
	30%	35%	50%	55%	30%	35%	50%	55%	30%	35%	50%	55%
Crude protein	30%	35%	50%	55%	30%	35%	50%	55%	30%	35%	50%	55%
Cassava flour	4.185	3.135	0.135	0.135	4.18	3.18	0.18	0.18	4.225	3.225	0.225	0.225
Wheat pollard	10	10	4	0.5	10	10	4	0.5	9.95	10	4	0.45
Maize bran	10	8.05	0	0	10	8	0	0	10	7.95	0	
Soy bean	42	41	13.7	0.45	42	41	13.65	0.4	42	41	13.6	0.4
Bush beans	10	6	0	0	10	6	0	0	10	6	0	0
Fish meal	10	20	80	95	10	20	80	95	10	20	80	95
L-lysine	3	4	0.1	2	3	4	0.1	2	3	4	0.1	2
DL Methionine	2	2	1.1	1	2	2	1.1	1	2	2	1.1	1
Cotton seed cake	2	2	0.15	0.1	2	2	0.15	0.1	2	2	0.15	0.1
Nile perch oil	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	0
Fish vitamin & mineral premix	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Citric acid	3	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	3	1	0	0
Table salt	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Lime	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
Toxin binder	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Phytase	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Table 1c: The 12 diets used to determine the optimal level of protease enzyme inclusion in diets of catfish among 750, 1000 and 1250 units.

Diet category	750 Protease				1000 Protease				1250 Protease			
	30%	35%	50%	55%	30%	35%	50%	55%	30%	35%	50%	55%
Ingredient	30%	35%	50%	55%	30%	35%	50%	55%	30%	35%	50%	55%
Cassava flour	4.051125	3.001125	0.001125	0.001125	4.001545	3.001545	0.001545	0.001545	4.001955	3.001955	0.001955	0.001955
Wheat pollard	10.14875	10.14875	4	0.45	10.19833	10.19833	4	0.45	10.19792	10.24792	4	0.45
Maize bran	10	8.05	0	0	10	8	0	0	10	7.95	0	0
Soy bean	42	41	13.6	0.4	42	41	13.6	0.4	42	41	13.6	0.4
Bush beans	10	6	0	0	10	6	0	0	10	6	0	0
Fish meal	10	20	80	95	10	20	80	95	10	20	80	95
L-lysine	3	4	0.1	2	3	4	0.1	2	3	4	0.1	2
Methionine	2	2	1.1	1	2	2	1.1	1	2	2	1.1	1
Cotton seed cake	2	2	0.4	0.35	2	2	0.4	0.35	2	2	0.4	0.35
Fish oil	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	0
Vitamin & mineral premix	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Citric acid	3	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	3	1	0	0
Table salt	0.1	0.1	0.09875	0.09875	0.1	0.1	0.09833	0.09833	0.1	0.1	0.09792	0.09792
Lime	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
Toxin binder	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Protease	0.000125	0.000125	0.000125	0.000125	0.000125	0.000125	0.000125	0.000125	0.000125	0.000125	0.000125	0.000125
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Stocking and management of experimental glass tanks

Experimental glass tanks of 20 litre capacity were placed in doors on wooden shelves. The room was made dark by sealing off all light spaces along windows and doors using a black dump proof course (DPC) polythene paper to reduce stress associated with light sensitivity of catfish [10]. Each tank was filled with about 15ltr of dechlorinated water at room temperature (average

22°C). Water was constantly aerated using rubber air diffusers connected to an air compressor by rubber tubings. Each tank was stocked with fifteen (15) catfish fry of 10.55 ± 2.06 gm (total length 8.25 ± 1.34 cm). Fish was acclimatized to glass tank feeding and faecal collection by siphoning by feeding them on 2mm diameter 30% CP diets/pellets for a week. After which, experimental diets were randomly assigned to the stocked glass tanks in triplicates. The catfish fry were fed at 5% of their

body weight with the daily ration divided into two portions that were fed from 10:00 -11:00hrs and 05:00-06:00hrs daily for 60 days (2 months). Fish tanks were cleaned of leftover feed an hour after every feeding matter and faeces collected daily by siphoning with rubber tubing. Each time faecal matter was collected, it was placed in labeled faecal containers that were freeze dried /kept frozen at -20°C. When fecal matter was deemed sufficient for proximate composition analysis, samples from all the triplicate treatments were thawed and then pooled together into bigger containers at the end of the experiment. Water was constantly aerated using air blowers attached to an air compressor (HAILE ACO-328) and replaced at a rate of 50% once daily during the morning cleaning to maintain dissolved oxygen concentration between 3-4mg^l⁻¹.

Data collection

Water quality parameter: Dissolved oxygen; pH, water temperature, ammonia, reactive phosphorus (orthophosphate) and alkalinity were determined using a Sera Aqua-test kit with reagents (Sera GmbH, Heinsberg, Germany). About four (4) to six (6) drops of the appropriate reagents in the kit were mixed with 5 ml of experimental water samples. The mixture was shaken until it was evenly distributed and the color developed matched to the colour chart immediately for pH, dissolved Oxygen and after five minutes for phosphates, nitrates, nitrite and ammonia. The digital value corresponding to the colour on the chart was then read and recorded under natural light.

Fish survival, weight gain and feed intake: Fish survival was determined by counting the number of dead fish during each cleaning and subtracting it from the original stock. Final weight was determined at the end of the feeding experiment by weighing the fish samples from each glass tank.

Feed intake and fecal collection: The triplicate groups of fish were fed on each experimental diet to satiation twice daily from 0900-10:00hrs and 1700-1800hours at a rate of 5% of their body weight. Satiation was judged to have been reached when about 20 pellets were not eaten and retained at the tank bottom. An hour after feeding (at 10:00hrs and 18:00hrs) the uneaten food was siphoned off the tank bottom according to [11], onto a fine sieve and gently transferred into 10ml plastic faecal containers from the first feeding until an hour to the next feeding. Care was taken to count the number of whole uneaten pellets whose weight was estimated from taking the weight of a similar number of unfed dry pellets and then subtracted from the weight of total administered feed to estimate the feed intake (Kg). Faecal samples from all the triplicate treatments were freeze dried at -20°C up to the end of the experiment when they were analysed for proximate composition.

Weight gain

At the beginning and end of the experiment, the fish were fasted for 24 hours. Seven (7) samples of fish were randomly picked from each experimental treatment and their live weight measured to the nearest 0.01 g using a digital weighing scale. The difference between initial and final live weight was used as the weight gain of the fed catfish. Feed intake was monitored daily and calculated by subtracting the number of uneaten

pellets from the supplied and estimating the weight of the same number of dry pellets from each respective experimental diet.

Proximate nutrient composition

At the start and end of the experiment, three fish samples from each treatment were collected and humanly sacrificed (100 mg/1 benzocaine). They were dried to constant weight and ground into fine powder (MUSA Body, Kampala Uganda). They were assessed for whole body proximate nutrient composition following standard methods by [12]. Dry matter was determined by the oven drying to constant weight (Gallencamp), ash by muffle furnace, crude fat by ether extraction according to [13] and crude protein based on Kjeldahl's method using a selenium catalyst, N, 6.25) and energy (bomb calorimeter: Gallenkamp Autobomb, calibrated with benzoic acid). Chromic oxide concentration in the diets and faecal samples were determined according to [14,15].

Determination of apparent digestibility

The indirect method of determining digestibility according to (De Silva and Anderson, 1995; Guillaume et al., 2001; Jobling, 1994) was used with Chromium (iii) oxide as an inert marker at a rate of 0.5%. In all cases calculation of apparent digestibility coefficients of dry matter was calculated according to [16,17].

$$ADC = 100 - (100 * \% (\text{Marker in feed} / \% \text{marker in faeces}))$$

Apparent digestibility coefficients (ADC) of crude protein and phosphorus were calculated as described by (De Silva and Anderson, 1995; Guillaume et al., 2001). Cho (1993): as; $ADC = 100 - [100 * (F/D) * (Di/Fi)]$

Where D = % nutrient of diet; F = % nutrient of faeces; Di = % Cr₂O₃ in diet; Fi = % Cr₂O₃ in faeces according to [16,17]. Phosphorus in the diet, faeces and whole-body fish was analyzed by the molybdovanadate method as described by [18].

Determination of nutrient utilisation

Feed utilisation was judged based on the Feed conversion ratio (FCR), nutrient deposition and retention which were calculated as;

$FCR = \text{Total feed given (g)} / \text{Total weight gained (g)}$. Phosphorus retention efficiency (PRE) was determined as; $NR (\%) = 100 * ([FBW * N_f] - [IBW * N_i]) / \text{feed intake (Kg)} * N_{\text{diet}}$ Where FBW is the final body weight, IBW is the initial weight; N_f is the concentration of Phosphorus in the fish at the end and N_i at the start.

Nutrient retention (NR) efficiency for phosphorus and protein were calculated as:

$NR (\text{phosphorus and crude protein } (\%)) = 100 * (FBW * N_f) - (IBW * N_i) / (\text{feed intake (kg)} * N_{\text{diet}})$ Where FBW is the final body weight and IBW is the initial body weight of fish, N is the concentration of nutrients (phosphorus or protein) in the fish at the start (N_i) and end (N_f) of the experiment [19].

Statistical analysis

Data was entered and organized in Microsoft Excel (USA) and thereafter imported to Genstat Windows 18th Edition (AVSNI product). Data for all parameters was first analyzed for normal distribution using the Shapiro-Wilk test and homogeneity of variance using the Bartlett's test ($p < 0.001$). Data in percentages/proportions was first transformed into arcsine as (ASIN (SQRT (number))) and later back-transformed by squaring the sine of the arcsine after re-testing for normality and homogeneity of variance. Data that was not normality distributed even after transformations was analyzed using the non-parametric Kruskal-Wallis one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) Data with normal distribution and homogeneity of variance was analyzed using the parametric two way analysis of variance (ANOVA) while considering interaction. Data with significant variance of the mean was subjected to pair wise comparisons using Tukey's test. In all cases significant differences were declared at 95% confidence interval ($p < 0.05$).

Results

Water quality

Ammonia and nitrates differed significantly among enzyme types /diets ($df = 3$, $p < 0.001$ and $H = 11.37$, $df = 3$, $p = 0.010$) respectively while orthophosphorus, dissolved oxygen and pH did not ($H = 1.088$, $df = 3$, $P = 0.780$; $H = 1.3$, $df = 3$, $P = 0.729$ and $H = 1.307$, $df = 3$, $p = 0.727$ respectively). Ammonia ranged from 2.85-12.04 mg/l, nitrate from 0.22-2.99 mg l⁻¹, orthophosphate from 0.37-11.41 mg l⁻¹, dissolved oxygen from 3.02-4.54 and pH from 6.48-7.45 (Table 3a).

On the basis of phytase and protease enzyme inclusion level, only ammonia significantly differed ($H = 20.86$, $df = 5$,

$p < 0.001$) but nitrates, orthophosphates, dissolved oxygen and pH did not ($p > 0.05$) i.e. $df = 3$, $p = 0.173$; $H = 4.508$, $df = 3$, $p = 0.479$; $df = 5$, $p = 0.398$; $df = 5$, $p = 0.87$ respectively (Table 3b). Ammonia was highest in 50%CP diets incorporated with protease and lowest in 55%CP with phytase enzyme.

Fish survival and weight gain

Percentage survival, the weight gain and final weight (in grams) of fed catfish fry was not significantly different across the three enzyme types ($H = 3.789$, $df = 3$, $p = 0.151$; $H = 1.678$, $df = 3$, $p = 0.642$ and $H = 1.179$, $df = 3$, $p = 0.758$ respectively) and the same was observed for phytase and protease inclusion levels ($H = 2.81$, $df = 5$, $p = 0.43$; 3.67 , $df = 5$, $p = 0.60$; $H = 5.72$, $df = 5$, $p = 0.33$) respectively. Survival ranged from 88.89 to 100%, final weight from 33.12-39.02 and weight gain from 22.96 - 30.02g respectively.

Apparent digestibility

Apparent digestibility of phosphorus differed among enzyme types ($df = 3$, $p < 0.001$), being highest in diets incorporated with protease and phytase enzyme (90.15 - 92.20%) and least in the control (Figure 1).

On the other hand, digestibility of organic matter and crude protein did not differ among enzyme types ($H = 3.167$, $df = 3$, $P = 0.367$ and $H = 7.511$, $df = 3$, $p = 0.057$ respectively.). However, high digestibility values of organic matter (55.27-96.48%) and crude protein (71.27-96.50%) were observed in diets incorporated with phytase and protease enzymes than with sorghum and the control where 43.9 - 88.95 was recorded for organic matter and 66.98 - 93.77% for crude protein (Table 4a)

When catfish fry was fed on diets incorporated with 750, 1000 and 1250 units of phytase and protease enzyme per kilogram,

Table 3a: Water quality parameters (mg-l) recorded in enzyme type treatments.

Enzyme type	Diet CP	Ammonia(mg ⁻¹)	SD	Nitrates (mg ⁻¹)	SD	Ortho phos (mg ⁻¹)	SD	Oxygen (mg ⁻¹)	SD	pH	SD
Control	30	5.02	0.21	1.25	0.02	8.93	0.12	3.87	0.35	6.81	0.23
	35	7.75	0.79	1.54	0.29	9.42	0.76	4.13	0.21	7.01	0.14
	50	9.15	1.02	0.82	0.06	6.77	0.28	3.78	0.69	6.97	0.15
	55	4.36	0.63	1.26	0.38	9.05	1.04	4.10	0.28	6.80	0.46
Sorghum	30	4.86	0.31	0.75	0.18	8.33	0.79	4.02	0.31	7.27	0.21
	35	6.13	0.30	1.39	0.17	8.51	0.59	3.87	0.34	6.77	0.14
	50	8.30	0.62	0.73	0.06	9.88	0.47	4.15	0.20	6.98	0.10
	55	4.60	0.55	0.79	0.04	5.96	0.15	3.98	0.48	6.78	0.11
phytase750	30	4.30	0.39	0.84	0.09	5.71	2.24	4.13	0.17	6.90	0.12
	35	5.81	0.29	1.43	0.14	6.75	0.40	3.91	0.07	6.95	0.11
	50	10.12	1.02	0.45	0.21	10.07	0.49	4.31	0.38	6.81	0.26
	55	3.33	0.42	0.85	0.12	9.99	0.13	4.04	0.40	6.70	0.07
protease750	30	5.66	0.88	1.98	0.85	6.65	0.54	4.13	0.17	6.90	0.12
	35	6.23	0.24	1.35	0.36	5.29	4.32	3.91	0.07	6.95	0.11
	50	11.30	0.85	1.46	0.19	10.55	0.75	4.31	0.38	6.81	0.26
	55	9.64	0.41	0.85	0.06	7.63	0.58	4.08	0.45	6.70	0.07

Table 3b: Water quality parameters recorded in phytase and protease enzyme level treatments.

Parameter	Enzyme level	P30		P35		P50		P55	
		Mean	St.error	Mean	St. error	Mean	St. error	Mean	St. error
Ammonia (mg ⁻¹)	Phyt1000	5.49	0.48	1.63	0.05	6.87	0.09	4.70	0.17
	Phyt1250	3.88	0.43	4.68	0.23	5.67	0.42	11.24	0.16
	Phyt 750	4.30	0.22	5.81	0.17	10.12	0.59	3.33	0.24
	Prot 1000	5.46	0.75	7.31	0.18	7.44	0.43	11.10	0.08
	Prot 1250	6.02	0.83	7.51	0.45	10.14	0.19	12.28	0.24
	Prot 750	5.66	0.51	6.23	0.14	11.30	0.49	9.64	0.24
Nitrates (mg ⁻¹)	Phyt1000	0.85	0.06	2.50	0.26	1.36	0.08	0.85	0.03
	Phyt1250	0.83	0.07	0.77	0.03	1.48	0.24	1.55	0.05
	Phyt 750	0.84	0.05	1.43	0.08	0.45	0.12	0.85	0.07
	Prot 1000	1.59	0.45	0.76	0.09	0.57	0.08	1.39	0.37
	Prot 1250	0.45	0.01	1.21	0.17	1.23	0.08	1.57	0.09
	Prot 750	1.98	0.49	1.35	0.21	1.46	0.11	0.85	0.04
Phosphorus (mg ⁻¹)	Phyt1000	8.76	0.41	11.28	0.44	8.73	0.31	6.55	0.25
	Phyt 750	5.71	1.29	6.75	0.23	10.07	0.29	9.99	0.08
	Prot 1000	5.60	0.46	2.72	1.89	5.98	0.38	7.43	0.29
	Prot 1250	2.77	0.39	6.88	0.30	7.90	0.51	8.82	0.16
	Prot 750	6.65	0.31	5.29	2.49	10.55	0.43	7.63	0.33
	Oxygen (mg ⁻¹)	Phyt1000	4.25	0.30	4.18	0.27	3.90	0.09	4.12
Phyt1250		3.91	0.12	4.29	0.15	3.82	0.18	4.29	0.14
Phyt 750		4.13	0.10	3.91	0.04	4.31	0.22	4.04	0.23
Prot 1000		3.93	0.06	3.74	0.34	3.85	0.12	3.84	0.16
Prot 1250		3.77	0.18	3.99	0.12	3.85	0.15	3.92	0.18
Prot 750		3.91	0.40	3.83	0.19	4.29	0.32	4.28	0.38
pH	Phyt1000	6.76	0.10	6.90	0.29	6.78	0.15	6.87	0.21
	Phyt1250	6.97	0.06	6.91	0.08	6.95	0.10	6.84	0.08
	Phyt 750	6.90	0.07	6.95	0.06	6.81	0.15	6.70	0.04
	Prot 1000	6.88	0.08	6.75	0.16	6.86	0.10	6.93	0.07
	Prot 1250	6.77	0.15	6.95	0.10	7.02	0.21	6.81	0.12
	Prot 750	6.98	0.20	6.72	0.12	6.73	0.07	6.82	0.08

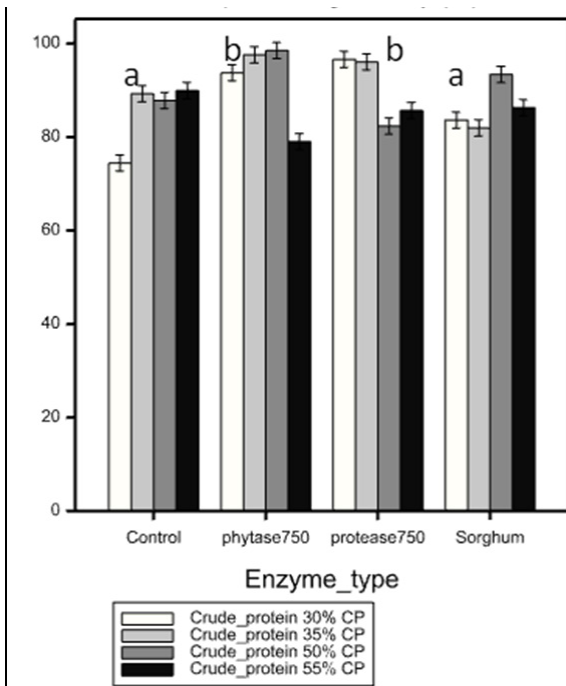


Figure 1: Digestibility of phosphorus among diets incorporated with sprouted sorghum, protease and phytase enzymes and the control.

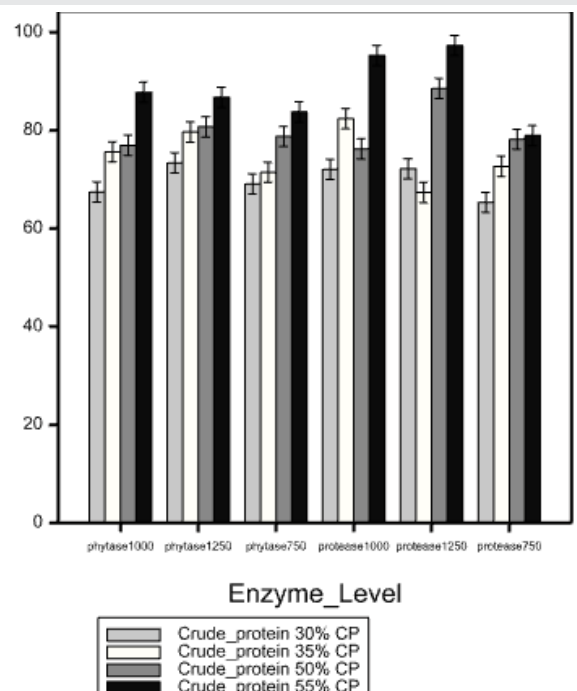


Figure 2: Apparent digestibility of crude protein among phytase and protease levels.

apparent digestibility of organic matter, crude protein and phosphorus were significantly different ($df = 5, p < 0.001$; $H = 11.10, df = 5, p = 0.49$ and $H=25.55, df =5, p <0.001$) respectively. Digestibility of crude protein was highest (81.49%) in diets incorporated with 1000 units of protease (Figure 2) while that of phosphorus were highest in diets incorporated with 1250 units of phytase (Table 4b). On the other hand, apparent digestibility of organic matter was observed to be high in diets with 750 protease and least in 750 phytase (Table 4b).

Protein and phosphorus deposition

Crude protein deposition significantly differed both among enzyme types ($df = 3, p = 0.004$) and phytase and protease levels ($H=46.39, df=5, p <0.001$) but phosphorus deposition did not in either case ($H = 0.773, df = 3, p = 0.856$) and ($H=2.59, df=5, p=0.763$) respectively. Unlike phosphorus, crude protein deposition was highly influenced by diet crude protein level (CP) ($df =3, p = 0.007$). It varied from 242.00 -428.40 among enzyme types and increased with increasing phytase and protease activity units (242-705.10) with the highest in diets incorporated with 1250 units of protease. On the other hand, phosphorus deposition ranged from 1.20- 1.36 among enzyme types and increased (5.19-13.32) with increasing phytase activity units (Table 5).

Protein and phosphorus retention

Equally, crude protein retention differed along enzyme types ($H=13.22, df = 3, p = 0.004$) as well as among phytase and protease levels ($H=47.5, df=5, p <0.001$) while phosphorus retention did not ($H = 4.752, df = 3, p = 0.191$. and $H=1.35, df=5, p=0.93$). Retained crude protein varied from 4.12 - 6.48 among enzyme types and from 4.74-10.03 among phytase and protease levels. It was in all cases higher in diets incorporated with protease than in those with phytase and the control (Table 5). Phosphorus retention varied from 1.20 -3.16 among enzyme types and from 0.69-3.91 among phytase and protease inclusion levels (Table 6).

Table 4a: Digestibility (%) of organic matter, crude protein and phosphorus in diets incorporated with sorghum, phytase and protease as enzyme types fed to African catfish.

Nutrient	Diet % CP	Enzyme type			
		Control	phytase750	protease750	Sorghum
Organic matter (%)	30% CP	80.57	77.26	96.48	73.17
	35% CP	88.95	91.17	91.03	43.9
	50% CP	63.01	92.91	55.27	83.8
	55% CP	83.02	56.82	52.73	80.99
Crude protein (%)	30% CP	90.24	90.11	97.28	87.59
	35% CP	93.77	94.77	93.06	66.98
	50% CP	75.07	96.5	71.27	88.38
	55% CP	88.06	87.42	78.38	88.56
Phosphorus (%)	30% CP	74.44	93.25	98.53	84.69
	35% CP	89.24	97.55	96.02	81.94
	50% CP	87.79	98.5	82.32	93.42
	55% CP	89.91	75.65	85.65	86.3

Table 4b: Digestibility of organic matter, crude protein and phosphorus based on phytase and protease enzymes at 750, 1000 and 1250 Units.

Nutrient	Enzyme level	30% CP	35% CP	50% CP	55% CP
Crude protein	phytase1000	67.44	75.62	76.96	87.77
	phytase1250	73.36	79.68	80.74	86.74
	phytase750	69.1	71.45	78.76	83.76
	protease1000	72.04	82.42	76.23	95.28
	protease1250	72.17	67.34	88.55	97.31
	protease750	65.34	72.67	78.18	78.96
Phosphorus	phytase1000	80.4	81.47	88.11	89.73
	phytase1250	92.11	98.42	91.21	88.91
	phytase750	80.55	85.3	80.93	81.18
	protease1000	84.12	81.47	81.42	91.8
	protease1250	76.53	84.21	91.56	93.82
	protease750	72.77	79.27	86.12	87.36
Organic matter	phytase1000	29.21	68.92	71.17	73.88
	phytase1250	50.73	67.27	74.67	64.38
	phytase750	28.27	52.01	54.19	62.22
	protease1000	54.59	60.54	74.35	88.46
	protease1250	50.39	57.16	81.38	89.2
	protease750	63.3	57.16	82.81	82.87

Result Discussions

Water quality

The high ammonia (3.33-11.30) and phosphorus recorded in diets incorporated with protease in diets phytase (5.29-10.55 and 7.43-11.28) respectively was attributed to liberation of crude protein and phosphorus by these enzymes. The ammonia and phosphorus levels were however more than tolerable levels for catfish (0.2mg/l, 2mg and 0.3 mg/l (20) and allowable discharge/effluent quality of 10mg⁻¹ in Uganda [21]. This was attributed to accumulation of organic waste in form of disintegrated left over feed and fecal matter. However no fish deaths were registered as portrayed by high fish survival rates (88.89 to 100%) This was attributed to the high levels dissolved oxygen (3.78 - 4.32 mg⁻¹) that were provided by constant aeration and the more constant and neutral water pH (6.76 - 7.01), optimal for catfish growth (Tables 3a,3b). The observed pH stability was thought to be related to the relatively high carbonate hardness (alkalinity) of the water used (Table 3b). The high phosphorus concentrations (5.29-11.28 mg⁻¹) were attributed to accumulation of wastes especially uneaten feed and feces that could not be siphoned before it disintegrated in water. Unlike in pond systems where the soil and some phytoplankton can absorb some ammonia and phosphates, no organisms (other than fish) would help in glass tanks. These water quality parameters could have negatively influenced fish growth among other factors and the actual effect was not established. Similar findings were reported by Survival and weight gain.

None significant differences were recorded for survival, final weight and weight gain and FCR among enzyme types or their inclusion levels were attributed to the influence of aeration and apparent digestibility.

The high apparent digestibility (AD) of organic matter (63.01–96.48%), crude protein (66.98–97.28) and phosphorus (74.44–98.50%) observed in diets incorporated with phytase and protease among enzyme types implied better efficiency of purified enzymes than sprouted sorghum. This could be attributed to enhanced specificity in commercial phytase and protease than in the enzyme cocktail (mix) in sprouted sorghum as reported by [6]. Efficiency of the enzyme cocktail is thought to have been degraded by proteolytic enzymes such as proteases activated by sprouting in sorghum as previously observed by [22].

Among phytase and protease levels, the high apparent digestibility of phosphorus observed in 30% and 35%CP diets incorporated with phytase enzyme especially at 1250 units per kilo was attributed to liberation of the phosphorus bound in plant ingredients that constituted 80–90% of these diets. On the other hand the high crude protein digestibility observed in 50 and 55% crude protein diets specifically at 1250 units' kg⁻¹ was attributed to breakdown of insoluble proteins by protease enzyme.

The apparent digestibility of organic matter and crude protein obtained were higher than 32.10–35.30% and 70.44–77.92% respectively observed by [23], when 32%CP with and without fish meal respectively were fed to *Labeo rohita*. Apparent digestibility of organic matter was again higher than 66.6% for fish meal and 57.8% for soybean used as ingredients for Nile tilapia extruded diets by [24]. The high digestibility of organic matter in these diets was attributed to low crude

Table 6: Whole body crude protein and phosphorus retention among catfish fed on diets with different enzyme types and inclusion levels.

	Enzyme type	30% CP	35% CP	50% CP	55% CP
Crude protein	Control	4.22	4.21	4.12	4.87
	phytase750	4.93	5.16	4.92	5.34
	protease750	4.74	4.21	5.10	6.48
	Sorghum	4.60	4.53	4.51	4.50
Phosphorus	Control	1.38	2.62	2.35	2.72
	phytase750	1.80	1.24	3.16	2.68
	protease750	1.65	1.20	1.73	2.13
	Sorghum	1.52	1.88	1.69	2.20
	Enzyme level	30%C	35%CP	50%CP	55%CP
Crude protein	phytase1000	6.12	10.05	6.99	6.74
	phytase1250	13.32	8.63	7.55	6.73
	phytase750	7.86	5.19	8.96	7.99
	protease1000	8.45	9.52	8.46	10.45
	protease1250	8.57	6.66	9.43	11.74
Phosphorus	protease750	6.46	5.65	7.93	12.40
	hytase1000	1.45	1.09	2.77	3.78
	phytase1250	1.41	0.69	1.80	2.89
	phytase750	1.28	1.36	2.32	2.66
	protease1000	1.44	0.90	2.84	3.91
	protease1250	1.35	1.29	1.60	3.64
	protease750	1.60	1.57	1.80	2.29

Table 5: Whole body crude protein and phosphorus deposition among catfish fed on diets with different enzyme types and inclusion levels.

	Enzyme type	30% CP	35% CP	50% CP	55% C
Crude protein	Control	362.30	402.90	308.90	266.00
	phytase750	395.00	364.50	269.40	296.60
	protease750	378.20	374.00	381.00	428.40
	Sorghum	391.80	356.70	294.50	360.90
Phosphorus	Control	1.38	2.62	2.35	2.72
	phytase750	1.80	1.24	3.16	2.68
	protease750	1.65	1.20	1.73	2.13
	Sorghum	1.52	1.88	1.69	2.20
	Enzyme level	30% CP	35% CP	50% CP	55% C
Crude protein	phytase1000	353.30	434.70	242.20	302.80
	phytase1250	399.30	460.10	271.30	365.70
	phytase750	395.00	364.50	269.40	296.60
	protease1000	607.20	632.30	519.60	442.90
	protease1250	705.10	686.90	599.80	562.10
Phosphorus	protease750	378.20	374.00	381.00	428.40
	phytase1000	6.12	10.05	6.99	6.74
	phytase1250	13.32	8.63	7.55	6.73
	phytase750	7.86	5.19	8.96	7.99
	protease1000	8.45	9.52	8.46	10.45
	protease1250	8.57	6.66	9.43	11.74
	protease750	6.46	5.65	7.93	12.40

fibre (<4) (Table 2a) Differences could have been due to incorporation of dietary enzymes, higher protein content and culture system used respectively.

Protein and phosphorus deposition and retention

High crude protein and phosphorus deposition and retention recorded in diets incorporated with protease and phytase particularly with 1250 units was ascribed to better apparent digestibility of these nutrients. Deposited crude protein to a tune of 200–270 fold than the phosphorus deposited could have been related to higher content of crude protein in diets with 1250 protease units than in other diets. As long as energy is not limiting, increasing diet protein is known to increase protein deposition. However, retention of only 1.42–1.96% out of the crude protein deposited (242–705.10gkg⁻¹) compared to 13.29–100% of the little phosphorus deposited indicated that the catfish was in a condition of protein balance. This implied that almost a similar amount of crude protein deposited was used up in body/metabolism and not contributing to building body tissue. This was attributed to protein breakdown to overcome effects of stress due to over handling during faecal collection. The high rate of protein breakdown was also reflected in extremely high ammonia levels, a product of protein metabolism in the culture water (Table 3a). It is in line with observations of [25], in patients with head trauma and [26], and is in agreement with [25], suggested by was attributed to deamination of excess On the other hand the high phosphorus retention (100%) at 750 phytase and protease inclusion levels than at 1250 units of enzymes (13.29–29.35% implied better utilisation in body tissue.

Table 2a: Proximate composition of diets used to assess the effect of enzyme type on digestibility of catfish diets.

Enzyme Level diet	CP%		Dry matter	Organic matter	Crude protein	Crude fibre	Crude fat	Phosphorus
Control	30	Mean	82.38	89.67	33.62	3.39	8.60	2.18
		SD	0.14	0.15	0.29	0.01	0.18	0.10
	35	Mean	79.13	88.58	36.23	2.42	6.60	0.96
		SD	0.08	0.33	0.19	0.01	0.15	0.14
	50	Mean	76.71	87.84	54.43	2.40	12.65	4.24
		SD	0.05	0.05	1.21	0.01	0.55	0.06
	55	Mean	75.98	89.24	65.86	0.00	8.59	3.89
		SD	0.09	0.02	0.30	0.00	0.08	0.05
Sorghum	30	Mean	82.60	88.67	31.65	3.66	9.61	2.30
		SD	0.56	0.30	0.14	0.28	0.62	0.23
	35	Mean	78.24	88.61	37.92	1.95	7.58	1.71
		SD	0.52	0.59	0.47	0.02	0.40	0.07
	50	Mean	76.22	87.08	54.26	1.67	9.10	4.07
		SD	0.01	0.02	0.13	0.27	2.93	0.06
	55	Mean	73.90	86.65	63.35	0.48	9.00	3.97
		SD	0.01	0.09	0.84	0.00	0.02	0.05
Phytase 750	30	Mean	76.89	87.78	32.28	2.18	15.37	1.97
		SD	0.18	0.02	0.48	0.71	0.54	0.02
	35	Mean	79.37	88.87	37.72	2.18	12.36	2.14
		SD	0.29	0.05	0.97	0.24	2.00	0.01
	50	Mean	77.78	88.85	54.92	1.78	12.55	3.41
		SD	0.43	0.41	1.40	1.39	1.55	0.16
	55	Mean	70.94	84.23	64.96	0.98	13.09	4.02
		SD	0.03	0.17	2.17	0.00	1.88	0.04
Protease 750	30	Mean	81.62	87.67	34.44	2.18	6.48	1.80
		SD	0.40	0.47	0.94	0.71	0.05	0.15
	35	Mean	77.02	87.04	37.02	1.47	8.63	1.92
		SD	0.52	0.66	0.03	0.48	0.16	0.02
	50	Mean	73.96	84.11	55.78	1.47	17.80	3.55
		SD	0.55	0.33	0.23	0.01	0.25	0.12
	55	Mean	76.06	86.73	66.05	0.98	14.72	5.26
		SD	0.24	0.18	0.41	0.01	1.05	0.06

Table 2b: Proximate composition of diets used to evaluate the optimal phytase and protease enzyme inclusion level for diet digestibility.

Enzyme Level diet	CP%		Dry matter	Organic matter	Crude protein	Crude fibre	Crude fat	Phosphorus
Phytase 750	30	Mean	76.89	87.78	32.28	2.18	15.37	1.97
		SD	0.18	0.02	0.48	0.71	0.54	0.02
	35	Mean	79.37	88.87	37.72	2.18	12.36	2.14
		SD	0.29	0.05	0.97	0.24	2.00	0.01
	50	Mean	77.78	88.85	54.92	1.78	12.55	3.41
		SD	0.43	0.41	1.40	1.39	1.55	0.16
55	Mean	70.94	84.23	64.96	0.98	13.09	4.02	
	SD	0.03	0.17	2.17	0.00	1.88	0.04	
Phytase 100	30	Mean	79.48	85.72	33.71	3.66	10.31	2.25
		SD	0.72	0.71	0.44	0.18	1.64	0.07
	35	Mean	76.83	86.56	37.72	2.52	10.24	2.39
		SD	0.09	0.10	0.97	0.19	2.42	0.15
	50	Mean	76.61	87.45	57.64	0.93	5.59	3.41
		SD	0.45	0.29	0.37	0.00	0.39	0.16

	55	Mean	73.27	86.44	66.09	0.96	8.61	3.99
		SD	0.28	0.32	0.84	0.00	0.59	0.03
Phytase 1250	30	Mean	82.75	88.86	34.35	1.95	8.53	2.60
		SD	0.26	0.32	1.49	0.01	1.11	0.32
	35	Mean	79.56	87.93	36.17	2.41	9.26	2.22
		SD	2.45	0.13	1.32	0.01	0.26	0.04
	50	Mean	77.00	88.42	57.34	1.21	9.93	3.94
		SD	0.37	0.18	0.18	0.24	0.56	0.21
	55	Mean	75.32	88.02	65.52	0.49	3.61	5.26
		SD	0.13	0.42	0.17	0.00	0.08	0.06
Protease 750	30	Mean	81.62	87.67	34.44	2.18	6.48	1.80
		SD	0.40	0.47	0.94	0.71	0.05	0.15
	35	Mean	77.02	87.04	37.02	1.47	8.63	1.92
		SD	0.52	0.66	0.03	0.48	0.16	0.02
	50	Mean	73.96	84.11	55.78	1.47	17.80	3.55
		SD	0.55	0.33	0.23	0.01	0.25	0.12
	55	Mean	76.06	86.73	66.05	0.98	14.72	5.26
		SD	0.24	0.18	0.41	0.01	1.05	0.06
Protease 1000	30	Mean	80.91	90.88	34.40	3.62	7.53	2.25
		SD	1.43	1.21	0.79	0.21	1.26	0.06
	35	Mean	77.11	86.86	36.84	3.23	9.15	1.41
		SD	0.99	1.10	0.22	0.31	0.69	0.01
	50	Mean	75.34	85.36	54.64	0.00	11.71	3.41
		SD	0.16	0.09	2.86	0.00	0.79	0.16
	55	Mean	81.19	91.82	58.85	1.21	7.94	3.30
		SD	6.70	6.76	2.86	0.24	0.33	0.15
Protease 750	30	Mean	81.56	87.40	34.19	1.72	8.83	2.22
		SD	0.19	0.24	0.94	0.25	0.47	0.11
	35	Mean	77.15	87.10	37.03	2.92	9.11	2.08
		SD	0.25	0.51	0.34	0.04	0.03	0.08
	50	Mean	77.30	87.30	52.79	1.50	11.60	3.94
		SD	0.07	0.08	3.38	0.00	2.58	0.21
	55	Mean	77.57	88.31	67.29	0.97	14.87	4.73
		SD	0.61	0.35	2.53	0.00	0.09	0.21

Conclusions

Incorporating 1250 units of phytase and protease enzymes in catfish diets improved digestibility and uptake of crude protein and phosphorus. We therefore recommend use of purified enzymes over sprouted sorghum until its phytase and protease activity assays and feasibility are determined.

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