

Good morning,

Development of fish meal replacements is being carried out in a number regions of the world with emphasis on the use of plant based ingredients. Plant protein sources have the advantage of greater availability and are less likely in my opinion, to harbor disease vectors that could affect humans. On the downside, these ingredients contain a variety of antinutritional factors and mostly do not completely satisfy the amino acid requirements of the aquaculture species. Industrial processing can neutralize many of these antinutritional factors, and using a number of different ingredients in combination can help supply the required amino acids.

One problem that seems to be receiving less emphasis in these studies is the question of palatability of these potential fish meal replacements. Studies in the past have indicated the need to address the problem of reduced attractiveness of formulations lacking fish meal or fish oil. This may not apply to all aquacultured species but it no doubt will affect some of the species cultured.

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