Tilapia, which is a tropical specie common in Africa, is very easy to breed because it grows faster.

The ‘Tilapia Growth Improvement Research scheme’ of the National Centre of Specialization in Aquaculture of WAAPP Nigeria focuses on three areas: (1) the production of all male tilapia breeding, (2) manual sexing and, (3) hormonal treatments of eggs for the production of super males.

The production of male tilapia seeks to meet production targets and to respond to the concerns of fish farmers. The fingerlings are fed inside the laboratory for a period of 28 days before they are released in ponds. To overcome the main challenge of how to hatch the tilapia’s eggs, researchers have designed a machine that keeps eggs in constant motion with water pressure.

The hybrid tilapias are very adaptable to local environment and are more productive even in dry season. Each hybrid tilapia can produce the double of its weight. For now, the researchers are expecting higher performance from the F2 generation of hybrid fingerlings.

The hybrid species open new market to fish farmers who source their fingerlings from the Institute.