



Aquaculture industry in Uganda

By

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Background

- Started in 1941 with the introduction of Nile tilapia after the carp was introduced in the country from Israel with the aim of stocking fingerlings in relatively cold waters of L. Bunyonyi, in South Western Uganda
- Scientist at ARDC disagreed and program was suspended, decided to use Nile tilapia from L. Albert
- Aquaculture promoted as part of rural development program, but at subsistence level

Background cont'

- Donor communities suspended research activities
- Farmers withdrew due to lack of technical support from the scientists, stocking materials and excessive regulation
- In 2000 recognition of aquaculture potential as a contribution to nutrition, food security and employment
- Strategic intervention resumed by Government and Development partners.
- No of ponds increased for both subsistence and commercial farmers

Importance of Aquaculture in Uganda

- Employs a significant number of people (12,000 farmers and 150 aquaculture service providers).
- Contribute to export earning and has a higher multiplier effect in the economy
- Contributes to food and nutrition security

Aquaculture farming system

- Pond culture(dominant)
- Cage/culture(recent)
- Tank culture

Some of the farmed species: cat fish and Tilapia



Farmers seining in a earthen pond



Opportunities

- 20% Uganda surface is suitable for fish production and underground aquifers are unexploited
- Increased population in East African region, constituting a market for the farmed fish
- Awareness of health benefits internationally derived from fish
- Increased interest in aquaculture , instituting New policy on Aquaculture
- Declining stocks in capture fisheries
- Availability of local materials which are under utilized in the feed industry

Opportunities cont'

- Political will amongst the three East African states to negotiate and enforce regulations that reduce informal cross border trade
- Free trade area created in East Africa for commodities including fish

Challenges

- Seed(quality and Quantity)
- Feed(quality and Quantity)
- With Intensification of aquaculture- diseases
- Poor marketing systems of both seed and feed
- Use of rudimentary techniques in farming
- Access to credit
- Inadequate extension services
- Climate change

Challenges cont'

- 30% of fish is traded informally, Government losing revenue
- Limited organization among traders
- Competing demands for fish feeds in the Eastern African region
- Poor Infrastructure leading high post harvest losses

Challenges cont'

- Poor record keeping, resulting into unreliable data for planning
- Lack of standards and food quality safety systems to drive export promotion of farmed fish and its products
- Limited human capacity to move the sector forward

Consulting with stakeholders to come up with strategies to move the industry forward at Namirembe guest House, Kampala, Uganda



Threats

- Dumping of cheap fish from China threatening the domestic sector
- Importation of exotic/foreign fish bringing viruses

Way Forward

- Given the importance of fish contributes to the economy and food and nutrition security in Uganda, it is imperative that a number of issues affecting the sector be tackled:
- Support of development of the appropriate infrastructure
- Instituting standards and food quality safety

Way Forward

- Implementation of Aquaculture parks policy
- Encouraging PPPs to invest in the sector
- Support of human capacity development at the National Universities and technical Institutions
- The future of aquaculture in the country is bright due to the presence of the required ingredients(water resources, commitment of the Government and high demand for fish)

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