Frequently asked questions

Q: *How can production be increased in ponds?*
A: In general, production is increased by improving water quality, so that fish can be held more intensively, and by increasing food quality and quantity. This has to be balanced against input and running costs such that the venture is not over-capitalized in terms of expensive technology.

Q: *When should increased production (intensification) be considered?*
A: When the risks of losing the stock due to poor water quality or technical failure is safe-guarded by back-up systems such as stand-by generators, clean water supplies or 24-hour monitoring. The cost of installing these systems must be justified by the increased productivity in terms of fish harvested per unit area or unit volume of water.

Q: *When should increased production not be considered?*
A: A good rule is to hold back when intensification runs the risk of destroying your stock, and when you cannot support the upgrade with technical back-up systems. If markets cannot absorb increased production, or if inadequate finance is available to make systems technically reliable, then increased production should not be considered.

Q: *How can pond aquaculture production be increased simply, without high-tech input?*
A: By using fertilizers to increase natural food productivity, and by using polyculture of species that feed on different organisms. Integrated aquaculture using farm wastes such as manure, vegetable clippings or edible by-products of other farming activities (such as brewery waste), can also increase production at little extra cost.