



Frequently asked questions

Q: *Can I use ponds that are not drainable?*

A: Basically, all fish ponds must be drained to manage them efficiently because netting can never be 100% efficient. Some fish will remain in the pond after harvest; these will either prey on or compete with newly stocked fingerlings. Also, the pond basin will need remodeling, scraping out and possibly repairs, to operate well. Undrainable ponds are the equivalent of fields that cannot be ploughed before planting crops.

Q: *Do I have to be at the fish farm every day?*

A: Someone who is totally competent at running the day-to-day activities outlined in the table on page 35 must be present every day of the year, including weekends and public holidays. Fish die easily if the wrong environmental conditions develop, and mass-mortality can quickly result from inattention to apparently small problems, such as plumbing failures or water-quality changes, therefore it is essential that staff are always on hand to check the farm.

Q: *How many fingerlings can I pack in a plastic bag?*

A: You should be able to pack 100 x 4 cm purged tilapia fingerlings in 3-4 ℓ of water in an oxygenated double plastic bag, and expect them to survive well for up to 12 hours.

Q: *How many adult-sized fish can I pack in a drum?*

A: You can pack about 20 purged adult tilapia of 500-550 g (or 20 x 250 g trout) in a 200 ℓ drum with a blower bubbling air through an airstone in it, for a journey of around 4-6 hours, and expect them to survive well.

Q: *How long will fish survive in a bucket?*

A: Fingerling-sized fish of 4-6 cm will survive at a stocking density of 20-30 fish in a 10 ℓ bucket for 20-30 minutes; 100 such fish will only last 5-10 minutes before they start gasping at the surface.

