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|  | **AQUACULTURE BEYOND BORDERS**  2020 FISH FARMERS AND INSTITUTIONAL VISITS – THIKA SUB COUNTY | | |
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| **Farms visited** | **STATUS** | **EFFECTS OF COVID 19** | **ADVICE GIVEN** |
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| 1st farm | There are 2 ponds. There is no consistency in the fish feeding thus the fish taking long to achieve the table size weight. | This farm is owned by an institution. Since the closure of the school on march 2020 the cash flows have been limited thus the school has been unable to purchase fish feeds. The fish have been depending on the extensive system for growth. | We advised the farmer to fertilize the ponds to enhance the green culture system and to install predator net. In regard to the worn out dam liner by the sun the farm should ensure they purchase well UV treated dam liner from recognized and approved sources. |
| 2nd farm | There is 1 pond. The pond is overstocked due to the inbreeding levels. | Covid resulted to closure of hotels which initially used to be the source of market thus forcing the farmer to keep the fish longer in the ponds. | To purchase the best breed from recognized and authorized hatcheries. |
| 3rd farm | Operates a hatchery: The pond space is limited for expansion thus the farmer produces only what she can sell within a stipulated time frame. | Covid has resulted to very minimal production due to low demand for the fish. | We advised the farmer to engage into a practice of crossbreeding to increase productivity within a short time. |
| 4th farm |  |  |  |
| 5th farm | The farmer has 8 ponds of which 5 ponds are currently stocked with cray fish and Nile Tilapia species. Management is not well taken care of. Grass has grown all over the pond dykes. The feeds are also a problem to this farmer. | Before covid this farmer would sell Cray fish of worth 7000kes per week but covid-19 resulted to closure of hotels which were the sources of his market. Covid reduced the output from his farm too. | We advised the farmer to get a good predator net to cover the pond. The challenge regarding the fish feeds the farmer was advices to use green water technology . |
| 6th Farm | There are 2 ponds of Nile tilapia. This farmer challenges concerning the cost of the feeds hence resulting to the green water system and use of chicken mash. | This farmer is not able to access the technical guidance from the area officers due to the covid-19 pandemic that resulted to the closure of the government works. It has henceforth cost him more to access guidance from private firms. | We advised the farmer to use cow manure to enhance the green culture system. |
| 7th farm | There are 2 ponds of Nile Tilapia and Cray fish. He also feeds his cray fish with marsh feeds upon proper fertilization. His ponds are not fitted with cover nets.. | Joseph used to sell to hotels but covid-19 pandemic caused closure of hotels. | We advised the farmers to do staged farming during covid-19 and keep fertilizing the ponds and install predator nets to the ponds to keep away birds predation. |
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| 8th farm | The farmer has 2 Tilapia ponds which were closed due to covid-19 | Covid 19 resulted to temporal closure of the farm. | To resume fish farming once the economy is normal. |
| 9th farm | This farm has 20 ponds in a green house. The challenges that this farm is experiencing is the turbity of the water that is pumped directly from the river. | Covid 19 has resulted to less breeding of the Catfish fingerlings due to the low demand. | To establish a water hold up tank that will solve the turbidity challenge in the farm. This will reduce fingerlings mortality. |
| 10th farm | This institution has 2 ponds. The water quality is poor. Fish are not well fed or protected from birds’ predation. | The farm is neglected due to closure of schools. | To install cover nets to prevent the birds from invading his fish and use green water technology. |
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| 11th farm | No students during the pandemic to take care of the farm. | The institution had been closed down for a while thus there were no students to take care of the farm thus the farm resulting to look neglected | To diversify to formulate good quality sell also to the local farmers. |
| 12th farm | The farm is not properly managed. The fish are just left to depend on the algae. The water levels are also too low lowering the productivity of the pond. | This farm started to fail before covid-19 because of lacking management. | To rehabilitate the damaged ponds and fill up the ponds with water to increase the productivity per pond. |
| Goko Munga | The farmer has 2 tilapia ponds. Financial instability due to covid has resulted to neglecting of the ponds for a while. | The farmer cannot afford fish feeds and also to stock the empty ponds. | Do proper pond management and use cheap cow manure for green water technology to increase natural pond productivity. |
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| Summary | | Number of fish farmers and institutions | 12 |
| Number of ponds | 41 ponds |
| Approximate area of ponds | 3,690m2 |
| Expected Productivity | Aprox 4,100 kg |
| Expected income to farmers | Aprox Ksh 1, 640,000 |