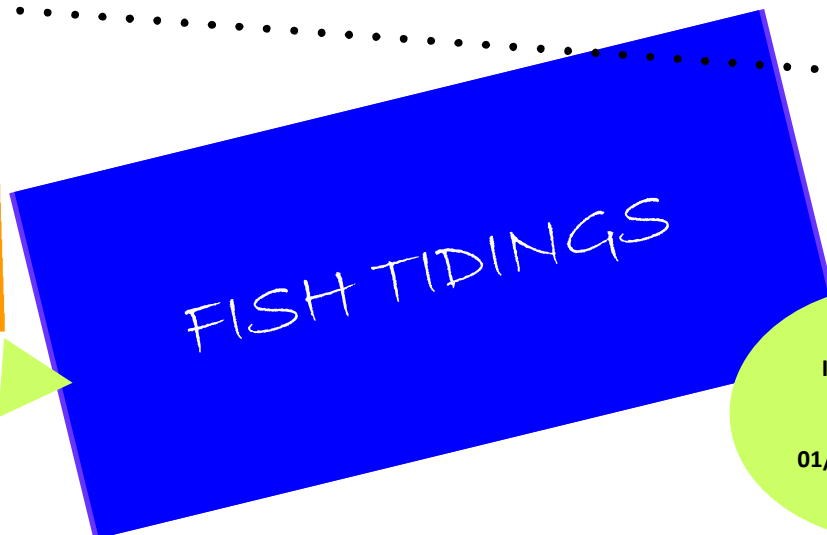




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Inside this issue:

AZ: Action Speaks Louder...	2
A Glimpse of Hope in a Pond	2
The Dicla Eco Tilapia System	3
Fish Benefits to Human Nutrition	4

Special points of interest:

- IAASL
- Dicla Eco Tilapia System
- Fish Benefits to Humans

Integrated Agriculture Aquaculture For Sustainable Livelihoods (IAASL)

The communities of Masvingo and Chivi districts in the Masvingo province are set to immensely benefit from a Protracted Relief Program being rolled out by Aquaculture Zimbabwe for the first time at a scale never been witnessed in the countryside before. The project which started in September 2011 and will last for the next 12 months will surely mark a transformation in the way of life for hundreds of targeted households.

The chronic poor rural households in the two districts are marginalized by the fact that basic commodities in Zimbabwe are being sold in foreign currency, which they have no easy access to. For the rural poor in particular, food security will require increased food production, which relies on, among other factors, reliable and sustainable production systems that complement the multi-functionality of agriculture. There is a pressing need to introduce low cost freshwater aquaculture production systems to help rural communities' combat poverty while at the same time conserving their environments in a sound manner.

Poverty reduction, biodiversity and environmental sustainability cannot be separated. This is because there exist a threshold below which those failing the daily dilemma of survival become destructive to simply survive. The disadvantaged and vulnerable families in the two districts are living in abject poverty and squalor as agro-based livelihoods continue to be hampered by poor soil productivity and prevailing climatic conditions. Most of these families are living in close proximity to perennial communal water resources which are largely underutilised. Poverty stricken families, orphaned and vulnerable groups of people spend most of their time looking for food and doing menial jobs or 'maricho' (a form of cheap labour contracts).



There is also an urgent need to improve the dietary diversity and nutrition of the population already ravaged by the HIV/AIDS scourge, effectively translating to an improved life expectancy. Aquaculture Zimbabwe sees the need to develop SMEs in freshwater aquaculture and fisheries as an effective way to sustainably utilize water resources for economic benefits and enhanced multiple uses of the water resource to achieve the goal of sustainable livelihoods. It is critical that agriculture be executed as a multi-functional practice. Increased agricultural production should result in environmental security, social cohesion, gender equality, improved human health, respect for local, traditional knowledge and above all be part of the equation in the fight against HIV/AIDS. IAASL will integrate fish into existing agricultural activities.

IAASL is set to improve incomes and diets.

Introducing freshwater aquaculture through an integrated agriculture aquaculture model will improve the province's per capita fish consumption and graduate hundreds of households from crippling poverty to decent income thresholds. The project is set to mark a special announcement to the policy makers and the relevant line stakeholders to change their mindsets and focus on streamlining the freshwater aquaculture and fisheries sector and recognise its potential impact on the gross domestic product. **AZ**

AQUACULTURE ZIMBABWE: ACTION SPEAKS LOUDER THAN WORDS



A Glint Of Hope In A Pond

Aquaculture Zimbabwe is conducting a fish farming Project in Norton under the Training for Rural Economic Empowerment in Zimbabwe. In co-operation with the International Labour Organization, University of Zimbabwe and Lake Harvest. A total of 100 unemployed youths

"...my involvement is not by accident and for sure my life is going to change for the better".

are benefiting from this project. The Project involves the youths setting up a fish farm with the assistance of the partners. That is setting up the ponds, managing, harvesting and selling the fish. At the inception of the project it was a bag of mixed reactions from the Norton community. Peo-

ple have been cautious, weary and hopeful about the project although this is a town whose livelihoods are mainly based around fishing. Fish farming came in as a new and previously untried or tested idea in the community hence the different reactions. Despite all these reactions a different story is told by the beneficiaries. These come from a marginalized group of individuals in the society. Some are from single parent house

...decent jobs for decent youths willing to make an honest living...

holds, H.I.V orphans, child headed households, school drop-outs and those who have been feeling the brunt of the lack of jobs in Zimbabwe despite having qualifications. A message of hope has come to these unemployed youths. One of the beneficiaries Receive Chaima says "Due to the occurrence of this project and

my involvement is not by accident and for sure my life is going to change for the better". Youths from different back-

grounds and all with a different story of



Norton youths constructing an earthen pond

conquering adversity and finding hope are working together towards one goal of a productive fish farm and bumper harvest. Hope has been restored.

The Dicla Eco Tilapia System

With momentum escalating within the freshwater aquaculture industry by the day, new and exciting technologies are being born and of late the Dicla Eco Tilapia System has seen the light of the day in Southern Africa and prospects are high that we might have just given birth to the mother of all solutions in as far as tilapia growing is concerned.

The production model launched on site in South Africa this year is the talk of the day. With its unique green footprint, the production system is everything environmentalists will smile at and an option for us community livelihoods builders to take home. Aquacul-

ture Zimbabwe has made exclusive arrangements with the developers of this system to market it and set it up across the Zimbabwean territory. Here are some facts about the system:

- 1). Developed over



Outside view of the greenhouse

...new eco-friendly technologies...

decades of research and experience.

- 2) A 50 x 12 meter greenhouse unit.

- 3) Capacity to produce 90,381 kg per year.

- 3) Complete with holding and stock management systems, pumps,

filtration, aeration and bio-filtration.

Supplied as a turnkey project with project design, supply, installation, management, training and mentorship.

Aquaculture Zimbabwe has made exclusive arrangements with the developers of this system to market it and set it up across the Zimbabwean territory.



Tilapia - the World's most farmed fish



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Fish Benefits to Human Nutrition

Fish makes a vital contribution to the survival and health of a significant portion of the world's population. Fish is especially important in the Developing world. In some of Asia's poorest countries Bangladesh, Cambodia, people derive 75% of their daily protein intake. In West Africa fish accounts for 30% of animal protein intake. Often referred to as rich food for poor people, fish provides essential protein and fatty acids (micronutrients). For those involved in fishery and fish trade, fish is a source of income which can be used to purchase other food items.



Fish contributes to food security as an important accompaniment to rice based diets in Asia and maize based diets in Africa. Malnutrition is a serious problem in Africa. Figures are currently at 42 million of children under five in sub-Saharan Africa and 24 million in eastern and southern Africa. Deficiencies of Vitamin A, iron and iodine are a concern in the whole Africa region. These are the cause of blind-

...healthy diets for healthy people...

ness, poor learning capabilities, poor growth and increased morbidity and mortality rates.

Development and Agricultural programming including fisheries and aquaculture which mainstream issues can go a long way in alleviating the problem of malnutrition in Africa. Fish contains a number of nutrients which are essential to human nutrition. Protein in fish is about 18-20%, 8 essential amino acids, fat is about 0.2-25% and a number of mineral elements. The fats in fish are also aid in the absorption of fat soluble vitamins. The World Health Authority estimates that people living with H.I.V survive up to 8 years longer with a varied diet. High

quality protein and micronutrients that fish provide readily in an accessible form. In Zimbabwe with a high rate in HIV/AIDS and animal sources of protein especially white

which is recommended being beyond the majority's pockets fish is a realistic alternative. Aquaculture Zimbabwe is on the road to making sure the livelihoods of the poor, HIV/AIDS affected and infected's nutritional demands are protected and supported.- **AZ**



Fish farming has a potential to solve Africa's nutrition challenges if water resources are put to sustainable use

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