

Nigeria

Welcomed to Makurdi, Benue State, Nigeria



Nigerians building fish farm – sale of fish fund child feeding youth outreach

10:26 AM, 2/20/2021] Uche: WHY FISH FARMING IS LUCRATIVE BUSINESS IN NIGERIA.
RESEARCH CONDUCTED AND SUMMARIZED BY PROF. STEVEN JATO

Fish is a valuable food product that provides the body with a lot of necessary elements starting with protein and ending with vitamin D dissolved in its fat in big quantities. These elements can prevent many diseases such as rickets in children and give them all they need for healthy growth. This is why fish is a priceless part of a healthy person's ration. Fish farming is also a good option to raising nutrition and self-sufficiency in Nigeria. However, around 90% of farmed fish consumed in Nigeria comes from Asia, with Sub-Saharan Africa accounting for less than 1% of the global production.

Limited production in Nigeria is not due to limited consumption. Fish is already an important part of people's diet in Nigeria with local production hugely lagging behind rate of consumption. Worst to it is that, the African continent has been experiencing a seafood deficit since 2001 with the drying up of the lake Chad water Basin due to the global climate change and this deficit has been growing by 13% every year. These figures demonstrate that increasing production of farmed fish would find a ripe market in the continent, in addition to generating both direct and indirect jobs.

Nigeria alone boast of over 200 million population that serves as a potential market. Initially, the lack of fish farming as a tradition was considered the main reason for the slow development of the sector. However, it has become clear that seed and feed inputs for fish farming were also lacking. However, improved availability and affordability of quality inputs can lead to triple fish

production and increased fish survival rates by more than 30%. Additionally, fish protein has become a more regular part of local diets. Building on these results, it is now advisable to initiate projects that leverage commercial farm's ability to produce or source quality seed and feed. These commercial farms can then aggregate the products at harvest and deliver them to the local market, supplying Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) and smallholder farmers around them. The more fish Nigerians eat the healthier they become. Of course, the growing population demands more and more fish. At this moment, this particular type of farming comes in handy and solves the problem. Private fishing farms can give as much as the nation needs and even provide something for export. This is one of the most important features and advantages of fish breeding and not only in Nigeria but in many other developing countries. Fish (diverse parts of its body) is also used in other industries than food production. Glues, paints, medications and many other useful and necessary products are made out of fish. Cosmetic products and perfumes often contain components produced out of some parts of a fish body. For Nigerians and Nigeria, fish farming is also a great attraction for foreign investments.

Nigerians have a stable place at the global market of fish production, they may well attract the attention of some investors from abroad who will want to give their money to the most effective fish farmers in Nigeria. This will mean that Nigerians will have a chance to build better and bigger pools with modern technologies and breed some new types of fish. Nigerians have not so many business opportunities that would bring them good money. Fish farming is one of the best chances for a person who wants to earn a fortune in the agricultural sector in Nigeria. Fish breeding requires significant starting investments so not everyone can afford opening it from scratch or purchasing somebody else's business. Yet, all these investments are normally returned by the success of the business. This is why many Nigerians undertake this business and eventually make it grow to a significant size.

[5:27 PM, 2/26/2021] Uche: Emerging from recently concluded negotiation between USAFRICA OUTREACH FOUNDATION team comprising Professor Stephen Jato, Prophet Idoko and Mr. Chukwudi with the farmers contracted last year, 2020 to farm for the Foundation, I write to officially inform you that the previous plan to embarking on a large scale crop production has been laid off for now. This is due to recurring attacks from criminal herdsmen on farmers and the outbreak of covid 19 pandemic. After a careful round table negotiation, a new project of fish farming was brought to bare. As their way of generosity in compensation to the laid off crop farming project and considering the high cost involved in the fish farming project, the contracted farmers have agreed to assist us with free labor in the construction of the fish pond in providing us with manual labor in the entire work of the construction process and also seeing to the completion of the pond, all for no charge.

We, the team members of the foundation see this fish farming project as a great opportunity that will help not only the host community but the entire Benue State, as it will create job

opportunities for the teaming youths and elderly people. Most worthy of note is the fact that the free labor to be offered in this project from start to finish could be valued at an estimated cost of over \$3,400.00. We the team members of the foundation and the contracted farmers are dedicated to doing this project because we are committed to serving humanity to the best of our ability and we assure that every penny invested in Benue would be prudently handled with the fear of God and also accounted for in the spirit of transparency and accountability.

Arising from the above summary, below is an estimate for establishing a standard fish pond for your perusal and prompt action:

ESTIMATE FOR EIGHT UNITS FISH PONDS WITH 3000 CAPACITY EACH:

1: iron 12mm 67×3,350=224,450	(8) Sharp sand 2trips ×8000=16,000
(2) blocks 1500×140=210,000	(9) plaster sand 2trips ×20,000
(3) cement 50bags ×4500=250,000	(10) Piller Basket 9pieces ×2000=180,000
(4) water seal 60kg 60,000	(11) binding wire 1bundle 10,000
(5) gravel 2trips 52,000	(12) Nails 4,000
(6) planks 50pieces ×1000=50,000	Total: \$1,136,950.00
(7) still rope 250pieces ×150=37,500	



Store begun by USAfrican Foundation – sells items for those who can afford, gives to people in need who cannot afford. Local pastors come and minister to customers as needs are expressed as items are given.

Items sold in the store were donated to USAfrican Foundation and Compassion Connections and funds were allocated for shipping the items to Nigeria from Raleigh, NC where stored and put into shipping containers ready to be shipped. Compassion Connections helped with collection and shipping cost. Special thanks to Smithfield Rescue Mission, Harbor House of Johnston County for sharing from their over- abundance of donations.

Fish Farm – Aquaponics –

Fish will be raised for food, marketing for sale, creating jobs and income for currently unemployed workers in Nigeria severely impacted by the Covid 19 virus. Waste from the fish will produce fertilizer to be used in planting and cultivating vegetable gardens for food and for sale as well in the future.

Profits from this project will feed hungry children and families struggling to afford food and shelter. The members of the USAfrican Foundation team in Nigeria works with local pastors to target those most in need in the community of life giving and life saving assistance.

PROGRESS REPORT

As part of your great support to the implementation of construction of a fish pond project in Benue State, Nigeria, the USAfrica Outreach Foundation considered it necessary, as it is, in our culture, to make available this report, in order to keep you abreast on the progress of work done so far. This report is accompanied by pictorials and a video highlight for illustration.

The land was procured considerably with nearness to water. The soil type is impervious (more than 20% clay) to ensure minimum water lost through seepage. The water table as measured is between 30 - 50 cm from the bottom of the pond and the maximum distance is not more than 5 -6 metres. The topography is favourably to our advantage since it will control any flooding possibilities that would increase detritus effects and erosion potential and also introduce undesirable species into the pond. We were able to procure the pond equipment and other materials needed for \$4, 300.00. While the site used for the construction of the pond was secured at \$3, 500. We also got some more volunteers for free labour from amongst DOZA members. The labour was freely provided by a volunteer group of experts as we notified you in the past. What we are able to do is to provide them with free meals for the whole period they are going to be working. We still need roughly about \$1, 300. 00, to be able to complete this project which will include plastering, sealing, stocking with the preferred species and the initial feeding meals.

This project, after its completion and properly stabilizing, would be able to service up to 25% of members of the local community in the areas of Job opportunity, feeding of both children and poor people around the community. As we acknowledge your great gesture to establishing such a project in Benue State, which is the food basket of Nigeria to help reducing poverty rate, it may also please you to note that pioneer members involved in the handling of the project on your behalf, have indicated very strong interest in duplicating this idea to help complement your efforts. They include Prophet Idoko, Professor Jato, and Mr. Chukwudi who is a Business man.