

FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION

Introduction

Zambia as a country has potential for fish production due to the abundant water bodies and support natural resources available in the country. However, as a country Zambia has a **40,000** metric tones deficit in fish production. The country has huge potential of the Tilapia (Bream) market in Europe but this is untapped as only about **8,000** metric tones of Tilapia is being produced.

For example Egypt is a water deficit or stressed country as its only water source is the Nile River, but is able to produce more than 400,000 metric tones of fish from aqua-culture related investments. In the case of Zambia it holds **47%** of the SADC region water; this therefore means that Zambia, with proper investment in the fisheries industry has potential to produce economic quantities.

Potential Scope

There is a high scope for Zambia as a country to develop high potential zones given the fact that Kafue Fisheries does off load 70 metric tones per week at one shop in Lusaka for example. The potential fishery zones would be;

- Along Kafue river
- Gwembe valley- Southern province
- New Lumwana area-North western province
- Zambezi valley
- Luapula valley
- Itezhi tezhi

In the proposed zones above there will be need to develop big fish farming blocks and at the same time identify other potential areas for production on the Copperbelt, Luapula, Northern, North-western province including Eastern province which is seriously fish stressed in terms of availability.

One reference in food production related investment is: to produce 1 Kg of beef there is need for 7kg feed for animals, on the other hand to get 1Kg fish you need 1.5Kg fish feed. This reference just shows how easy it might be to produce fish for nutrition in Zambia.

Investor past Experience & Potential

The Governments vision is to develop five such fish farms in Zambia, especially that Lake Harvest of Zimbabwe are willing to start fish farming in Zambia. The current Lake Harvest fish farm operations are E.U. Standards compliant.

- Kafue fisheries is an example of earthen ponds which are integrated with livestock
- Chalata-Mkushi Government fish farm with the main aim to produce fish fingerlings for distribution to small scale fish farmers. Other Government fish farms operating on the same objectives are listed as follows:
 - Kachele in Kalomo District Southern Province
 - Kaoma in Kaoma District Western province
 - Chipata in Chipata District Eastern province
 - Misamfu in Kasama District Northern province
 - Fiyongoli in Mansa District Luapula province

The sites itemized above have high potential for PPP (Public Private Partnerships) based investment to produce high quality fish fingerlings.