

Project update: April 2019

Activity period September 2018-March 2019

We carried out training on value addition for 20 community members. They were trained on handling, packaging, branding and marketing of farmed fish. All those trained were directly involved in the management of the fish ponds initiated in the project.



Left: Laying of the pond liner letting in water. Right: First catch of Clarias and tilapia fingerlings in the pond.



Left: First catch of tilapia. Right: Our largest catch of Tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) at 1.3 Kg.



Left: Students from Hawinga Secondary School learning about fish conservation and farming. Right: Ms Violet Awino showing off our number 1 catch.

Our catch: Our maximum weight of *Tilapia* was attained after 8 months while other table-ready sizes were harvested starting at 5 months. A total of 550 fish were caught in the two ponds after 6 months and all were sold locally in the market and also at hospitals and hotels in Siaya County. Thereafter, 328 fish were harvested after 8 months weighing between 0.8-1.3 kg.

Outcomes of the activity:

1. More than 800 fish harvested from the ponds. This means that we were able to prevent or manage the pressure on the endangered *O. variabilis* and *O. esculentus* from Lake Kanyaboli.
2. Income generated through the harvesting and sale of fish: 28 households have directly benefited from the economic returns of fish farming while about 95 other households have indirectly benefited
3. Improved nutrition of the riparian communities. Many locals were able to purchase fish at reasonable prices from our ponds and therefore readily available source of protein unlike before where the catch at Lake Kanyaboli had dwindled and also threatened the two endangered fish.
4. Two representatives were able to participate in the blue economy conference held in Nairobi (November 26-28 2018)
<http://www.blueeconomyconference.go.ke/>