Project Update: December 2022

Introduction

Aquaculture practiced sustainably and responsibly, supplies nutritious food for an ever increasing global population, easing the strain on fish stocks while creating jobs and improving people's wellbeing. It is based on this background that fish farmers from different clusters were trained about sustainable aquaculture development in the Lake Victoria crescent. The training focused on key issues which included training and contacting farmers and other aqua culturists, Lake Victoria crescent aquaculture management case studies Mukono, Mpigi, Wakiso, Kampala and Masaka Buikwe districts and aquaculture resources assessment and gathering and interpretation of aquaculture data collection information on aquaculture management.

The training on that day focused on: i) sustainable aquaculture concept principles, and current initiatives in Uganda; ii) formation of marketing unions and their role in sustainable aquaculture development; iii) alternative feeds for aquaculture pathway to sustainable aquaculture development; iv) sustainable value addition to fish and entire value chain; and iv) emerging sustainable aquaculture production technologies.

i). Sustainable aquaculture concept principles, and current initiatives in Uganda

Eighty-two participants were trained and equipped with the understanding of how to have sustainable aquaculture development in the Lake Victoria crescent, Uganda. The focus on that day was how best the ponds can be established in a way that does not threaten the ecosystems and the environment. During this session, comprehensive understanding on how best farmers can sustain fish farming, was comprehensively discussed.

During the training session on Sustainable aquaculture concept principles, and current initiatives in Lake Victoria resent, Uganda.

ii). Training on formation of marketing unions and their role in sustainable aquaculture development

During the training we also focused on how we can promote sustainable aquaculture through formation of fish marketing unions. The focus on the training was organisation marketing of aquaculture products as one of the components of protecting producers and ensuring the environmental sustainability and economic viability of the market in aquaculture products. It improves and strengthens key elements common market standards, consumer information and producer organisations, and introduces new elements, such as market intelligence for the fish farmers. We encouraged on making the participants understand why it is necessary to have the fish marketing association as they role in ensuring sustainability. The other key focus of the training under this session was to equip participants with the knowledge of how these producers can be protected with focus on aquaculture and linking market considerations with resource management issues among the fish practicing farmers. Under this training we also ensured that the participants have knowledge on; i) how to strengthen the competitiveness of aquaculture industry; and ii) improve the transparency and stability of the markets and improve consumer information and raise awareness, by means of notification and labelling providing comprehensible information.

Training session on formation of marketing unions and their role in sustainable aquaculture development

iii). Alternative feeds for aquaculture Pathway to sustainable aquaculture development

As way to promote sustainable aquaculture, we also focused on practically training farmers on how to promote fishpond farming using feed which are sustainable in nature. In view of this we focused on training on black soldier fly leave as alternative feed for fish. We trained farmer on how to breed and rear the black soldier flies. Their advantages and how they can be alternative feed source.

In our training participants were equipped with knowledge that insect black soldier fly meal is being recognised as a feed ingredient in aqua feeds for their protein rich content similar to fish meal. Participants we able to appreciate that black soldier fly that meal has been utilised as a fish meal or soy meal substitution in aquaculture to improve the nutrition.

The participants were taken through the training on how to breed the black soldier flies and the entire breeding process, these were exposed to all this process practically.

Participants being taken through breeding of black soldier flies as sustainable alternative feeds for fish

Participant observing the black soldier fly hatchery and the already processed meal

iv). Sustainable Value addition to fish and entire value chain.

During the workshop, we also focused out training on how fish farmers can add value to their fish to ensure sustainability in income generation. During this session, fish farmers were able to appreciate that value-added fish and shellfish products usually undergo some level of processing that will inactivate and kill bacteria and pathogens, and in the process, this will result in shelf-life extension and can also provide new market opportunities.

Participant attending session on Sustainable Value addition to fish and entire value chain

v). Emerging sustainable aquaculture production technologies

During the workshop sessions, we also trained farmers and equipped them with new fish rearing technologies. Farmers were taken through the aquaponics system of fish rearing, they also practically observed how this can be done. In out trainings we emphasised the use of locally and

available cheap options to ensure that sustainable technologies can be adopted which are not complicated and are affordable to the fish farmers.

Participants practically observing the aquaponics system during the training session

APPENDIX

Participants taking lunch after training session break