

FISH FARMING

This refers to the rearing/ keeping of fish in confined areas like ponds, cages, fish containers /tanks for both commercial & subsistence purposes.

OR

It refers to the rearing /keeping of fish in designated areas on land like ponds & fish tanks/ containers as well as water bodies i.e. cages.

Fish farming areas in Uganda include;

Cages; e.g. on lakes like L.Victoria, L.Kyoga, L.Albert & rivers like R. Victoria Nile & R. Albert Nile, etc.

Ponds; e.g. in Mbale, Kampala, Jinja, Kiboga, Wakiso, etc.

Fish tanks/containers; e.g. in Kampala, Wakiso, Mpigi, Jinja, etc.

A sketch map of Uganda showing fish farming areas.

Leave a full page for the sketch map.

FACTORS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF FISH FARMING IN UGANDA

- Presence of large pieces of land used for the establishment of fish ponds & fish tanks e.g. in Kampala, Wakiso, Mpigi, etc
- Favourable climatic conditions especially the cool temperatures which support the growth of fish in fish farming areas like fish cages on L. Victoria, ponds in Kiboga, Wakiso, etc
- Flat nature of the landscape which has enabled the establishment of fish ponds & fish tanks in Kampala, Mpigi, Wakiso, etc.
- Presence of various fish species to stock the fish cages, fish ponds & fish tanks like tilapia & bagrus e.g. in fish ponds in mbale, fish cages on L. Victoria, etc
- Presence of plenty of fish foods which enable the fish to survive in the fish farming areas like ponds in Kampala, fish tanks in Wakiso, etc
- Improved research in fisheries which provided the need to establish fish farming areas like cages on L. Victoria, fish ponds in Kiboga, Wakiso, etc.
- Favourable government policy of financing fish farming with the aim of reducing fish depletion in the natural fishing grounds like lake Victoria where fish cages have been established.
- Availability of ready market for fish both local & foreign which has encouraged fish farmers to practise fish farming e.g. in fish ponds at Gulu, Kabale, etc

- Availability of skilled labour used in the establishment & management of the fish farms like fish cages on L. Victoria, ponds in Mbale, etc.
- Large sums of capital used to pay labourers, purchase fish feeds as well as establishing fish farming areas like ponds at Kajjansi in Wakiso district.
- Relative political stability which has encouraged investment in fish farming hence establishment of fish ponds in Wakiso, fish tanks in Kampala, etc.
- High level of technology used in the establishment & maintenance of fish farms like cages on lakes like L. Victoria, fish ponds at Kiboga, etc.
- Well developed transport network to facilitate the marketing of fish from the fish farms like ponds in Mbale, Kiboga, etc.

CONTRIBUTION OF FISH FARMING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF UGANDA

Positive contributions

- Source of employment opportunities to the people of Uganda which has led to improvement in their standards of living e.g. in fish ponds at Mbale, Kampala, etc.
- It is a source of food to the people in form of proteins which improves their diet e.g. in Kabale & Kiboga where fish ponds & tanks have been established.
- Fish farming is a source of government revenue through taxing incomes of fish farmers & fish farming companies which is used to set up several infrastructures e.g. fish tanks in Mbale. Kasese, etc.
- It has led to development of infrastructure like roads has eased transportation of goods & services.
- It is a source of foreign exchange through exportation of fish to other countries like DRC, south Sudan , etc. For example fish from fish ponds in Wakiso, Kampala & fish cages on L. Victoria is exported to those countries.
- It has strengthened international relations between Uganda & other countries to which the fish is exported.
- It has led to development of tourism/ research/ study purposes thereby increasing government's foreign exchange earnings.
- Fish farming has led to development of agriculture through provision of fertilizers.
- It has led to economic diversification hence reducing over reliance on a few sectors like agriculture whose profits are unpredictable.
- It has led to development of labour skills through on-job training.
- Source of market for other sectors that provide materials used for setting up fish farms & harvesting the fish from ponds & fish tanks in Mpigi, Masaka, etc
- It has led to development of industries through provision of fish as a raw material.
- Development of urban centres hence increase in the provision of social services.
- It has led to full utilisation of natural resources e.g. lakes through establishment of fish cages, wetlands through establishment of fish ponds e.g. in Wakiso.
- It has reduced pressure on the existing natural fishing grounds like lakes & rivers.

Negative contributions.

- It has led to profit repatriation since some fish farms are owned by foreigners like Federico Tonelli Uganda Ltd from Italy that is in charge of cage fish farming of tilapia on L. Victoria.
- It has led to urbanisation & related problems like growth of slums.
- Increased school drop outs
- Diversion of labour from other sectors.
- It has led to pollution of water bodies especially lakes & rivers through the use of fish feed.
- Establishment of ponds has led to land degradation/ destruction of the original nature of the landscape.
- It has led to flooding especially near the fish ponds during the rainy seasons.
- It has led to increased spread of water borne diseases especially where the fish ponds have been established like in Kiboga & Mbale.
- Destruction of vegetation cover especially during the establishment of ponds e.g. in Wakiso & Kampala.
- It has led to accidents especially during the harvesting of fish & establishment of the fish farms like cages & ponds e.g. on R. Victoria Nile & in Mpigi respectively.

PROBLEMS FACING FISH FARMING IN UGANDA

- Limited quality fish seeds/ fry
- Limited supply of fish feeds
- Inadequate capital for investment
- Limited skilled labour supply
- Shortage of fish farming inputs like fish feeds
- Uncontrolled fish breeding that results into overcrowding of fish in the ponds hence reducing the quality of fish.
- Unfavourable climatic conditions especially prolonged drought which causes water shortage in ponds.
- Fish predators like birds, snakes & other wild animals which eat up the fish & also attack fish farmers.
- Insecurity which leads to theft of fish by the local people hence affecting incomes of the fish farmers.
- Competition with other producers/ price fluctuations/ limited market for the fish.

