

Women's Contribution in Aquaculture Value Chain development in Nigeria

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Abstract

The current fish import deficit experienced in Nigeria has reached a level whereby the government has called on all citizens to engage in fish production through aquaculture in both homestead, cottage and industrial levels. The organized private sector, especially groups of women have taken it upon themselves to contribute their own quota to fish production. This paper gives a concise module operandi of this group of women. They engage in site selection, culture systems, design of ponds; concrete, plastic, earthen and planked tanks. This paper shows some of these designs and materials needed for replication of intended practitioners. The paper also shows the value chain processes including pond management practices, breeding and species selection. It also shows feeds type production, feeding and water quality management practices. Sorting and harvesting techniques, as practiced by the women are unique. This practices make the women to be economically independent and they are able to cater for their children. In the value chain, the women market their own fish and process them into fish products like fish cakes, burgers, crackers and fish pepersoup at recreation centers. The paper also tries to give an economic analysis of establishing some of these fish farming processes for potential fish farmers for improved livelihood in the African region, especially for women's small-scale enterprise.