

**PROBLEMS and PROSPECTS in Developing AQUACULTURE for LIVELIHOOD
ENHANCEMENT in Gucha, Meru and Taiata Taveta in the Republic of Kenya**

Ernest Yongo*, Harrison Charo-Karisa*, Mary Opyo*, Jonathan Munguti*, Paul Orina*

* Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute

Abstract

Problems and prospects in Developing Aquaculture for Livelihood enhancement in Gucha, Meru and Taiata Taveta in the Republic of Kenya Ernest Yongo. Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute, Kisumu P.O. Box 1881 40100 Kisumu All correspondences to ernyongo@yahoo.com Abstract There is considerable variability in aquaculture production within the study areas of Gucha, Meru and Taita/Taveta regions. Aquaculture activities involves the production of Nile tilapia and African catfish using earthen ponds. Most ponds are individually owned (93.8%). Most of the ponds were constructed and stoked between January 2007 and July 2011, which reflects the change in strategy by the government for promoting aquaculture. Ponds size are more or less same sizes of about 300m² Most farmers culture Nile tilapia (99%). The stocking density is about 3 fish per m² for both Nile tilapia and Clarias, but for the Gold fish the density is about 10/m², mostly cultured in the Meru study region. Dominion farm was the main source of seed (13.2%). Small scale hatcheries run by individual farmers supplied 116% while 40.5% was supplied by the Fisheries Department and 30.3% got their seeds from Sagana Aquaculture Centre. Unga feed/Sigma is the source of feeds (93.4%), while 6.6% farmers made their own feeds. The profits ranged from 25 -75% over total costs.