

Species to be produced

The choice of what to produce will be guided by:

- Market preference
- Ecological requirements of the species
- Production technology of the species
- The species to be produced must not only be marketable but also suited for the climate and be produced cost effectively.
- Different species require different climatic conditions to perform optimally.



Characteristics of suitable species

- Adaptable to culture conditions
- Fast growth rate, from egg to market size
- Simple and inexpensive dietary requirements
- Hardiness and resistance to diseases and parasites
- Producer can have full control over the life cycle processes in captivity
- Easy market acceptability
- Readily accept formulated feed



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CONSIDERATIONS BEFORE INVESTING IN FISH FARMING



INTRODUCTION

- Starting fish farming as an economic enterprise should be taken seriously.
- Commercial fish farming involves making a important investment decision and requires serious commitment.
- Thorough planning is a must before any investment is made.
- Planning involves a detailed evaluation of the biological, economic, and socio-legal aspects of production.
- Economic considerations are as important as biological ones in aquaculture. Socio-legal issues are potentially capable of making it completely impossible to undertake fish farming.



BUSINESS PLANNING

A business plan is an analysis of the production, market and financial aspects of the proposed enterprise. It consists of:

- Description of the proposed production site.
- A marketing plan/strategy
- Description of production techniques/strategy
- Financial analysis of the proposed venture.

QUESTIONS

- When does the market want them supplied?
- What quality does the market require?
- Can I meet these standards?
- Is it possible to get a bulk buyer?
- Does the demand in the market justify the intended production?

PRODUCTION SITE

The proposed site should have the following characteristics:

- Be located in a region suitable and allowed for fish farming
- Have a climate suitable for the species intended for production
- Be well drained and protected from floods
- The topography and the soils should be suitable for the construction of the proposed production system
- Have adequate and preferably free flowing good quality water supply. This is the life line of fish farming and is a must.
- Water is the key to a good site and not a matter of choice.
- Water should be available throughout the year
- Water must be free from pollution

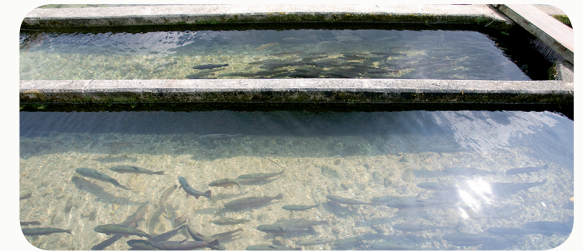
PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES/STRATEGY

When planning for commercial venture, the following aspects of production must be considered very critically:

- Species to be produced
- Production site
- Production technology

PRODUCTION LEVELS

- Extensive systems (Production in these systems ranges between 500 and 1500 Kg/Ha/year.)



- Semi-intensive systems (Under good management, productions can reach between 6-10Kgs/m²/year)



- Intensive systems (Production in these systems range from 10-50Kg/m²/year)

