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MATRIC NO: 18/MHS02/197

COURSE: AFE 202

LIVESTOCK

FISH FARMING

Starting a fish farming business today requires you get a professional help or buy a well written business plan which can serve as a guide through the set up period. The truth is that there are several business challenges facing the average businessman or woman in Nigeria today, especially when it has to do with fish farming as well as the stiff competition that comes with this type of investment, the question now is how to start fish farming in a country like Nigeria? And the get the required return on the investment made in the business.

Overcoming these challenges places you at the pinnacle for your business career. And also the business you get to understand how to start up a business venture in country like Nigeria and being able to running it

successfully irrespective of the challenges that comes your way.

in the business of farming fishes, there are categories of fishes to be farmed, and these fishes has procedures which must be adopted, they are subdivided into two categories, they include;

- . Nursery
- . Grow-out pond operation

Nursery

The nursery subdivision is a kinder of feeder operation which forms the basis for the grow-out pond subdivision. The thing is that the later won't operate maximally without without a functioning nursery. The primary function of the nursery entails the ability of the fish farmer to induce the female fish which makes them to be able to lay eggs. After laying on of eggs, these eggs are either fertilized, incubated or are hatched, these are also known as the fries. In their tiny state, these fries are nurtured for a short period of time, approximately 3 to 4weeks. At this stage they become what is called

fingerlings, the fingerlings can now be transferred to the fish grow-out operation

Grow-out pond operation

This subdivision talks about the fingerlings gotten from the nursery subdivision which will be nurtured until they are matured enough to be sold. This is also applicable to the catfish farming business.

The feasibility study on commercial catfish business plan centers on the processes involved in growing a fish from the nursery to the grow-out pond operation level. The stages includes;

- . Pre fingerlings
- . Fingerlings
- . Mini juveniles
- . Juveniles

These stages can take place within a period of say 4 to 5 months. At that final stage when it has matured into a table size fish, you can then offer them for sale.

Factors involved in setting up a fish farming business

Location to site the fish farm

You need to secure a site where the fish farm will be located, getting a suitable land earns you a huge step in the right direction as regards your fish farming business plan in Nigeria. In setting up this farm, things like an accessible road to the farm, nearness to the market etc should be considered. Then after securing your land, carefully map out how every department will operate, from

- . Ponds to the
- . Farm house
- . Water supply
- . Drainage facility

Map out a workable fish farming business plan in Nigeria

Your plan is the blood stream of the business. What you have in your plans tells the size of the fish farm you want, either large scale or small-scale. Your plans will also tell of the pond system you will adopt. We have different pond system, they include;

- . Re-circulatory system

- . Earthen pond system
- . Concrete/plastic pond system, you can go for both.

The challenges of fish farming

- . Poor farm site

Bad fish farm location can affect the full potential of farm growing.

- . Poor pond design

Bad quality of pond can lead to the leakages or other factors that are very pernicious for the business.

- . Poor market research

Without knowledge and feasibility study of the market, all the efforts might end up to be in vain.

- . Lack of experience

This is a very widespread reason for failure in this business, so communicate more with experienced farmers.

- . High level of competition

The big market dictates its rules, it is important to be able to handle competition in this business.

Where to source for water supply

For your fish farming business plan in Nigeria to be successful, you need constant water supply, you can use the following sources,

- . Bore hole water source, this source has been considered as the best water for fish farming.

- . Installing overhead tanks, this system will help you to retain water and then pumping it into the pond. You can hold water in the tanks for a period as it can also maintain a certain temperature.

Pond construction

This has to be included in your fish farming business plan in Nigeria. There are professional pond constructors you can employ to help you construct a quality pond.

Benefits of fish farming

- . Growing market: African fish market is huge and according to the researches, it is constantly growing because there is a demand. Fishery products are cheaper

than meat, and this a great advantage, it makes the product more popular among the larger part of the population.

.Low cost of operation

When we are talking about the farming business it seems like it requires a lot of money. In the case of fish farming, you don't need a huge sum of money to start and maintain the business. For example, poultry products business requires much more money to start, and there are more threatening vices than in the case of fish business.

Support from government

There is a large campaign in Nigeria to motivate people to make more investments in agriculture, so at this time fish farming among the most lucrative business to venture into.

. Source of protein

Fishery products are also very rich in health benefits.

