# **Fish farming in Nigeria**

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Agriculture is a most important part of economic development in Nigeria. Thousands of people are involved in this industry. Because of agriculture development, there are more workplaces and the country follows the path of progress. Aquafarming considers as a part of agriculture, fish farming is the most common type of aquafarming, and it is quite popular in Nigeria.

Fish farming recommended itself as a profitable business. There is a great demand for fishery products like Catfish, Tilapia, Mackerel (Salmon). One more good condition for this business is support by the government that makes this business one of the most successful business areas. Seafood farming in Nigeria is a very popular kind of business. You can start fish farming on a small scale for fulfilling your daily family demands or for earning some extra cash with your regular income. The demand for fish is increasing continuously. Keep reading as we guide you through how to make a proper business plan for fish farming in Nigeria.

How to start fish farming One of the most widespread agribusinesses in Nigeria is fish farming and for considerable reasons. The days when the only way to get fish is to catch it in local rivers and ponds are gone, today, modern methods of farming allow to grow fish on farms and monitor revenues. Fish farming in Nigeria has great potential, and you can also engage in large-scale commercial production. Fish production is a very dynamic type of business. Fish farming in Nigeria is a lucrative business that is popular in various parts of the country. There’s high demand for fish products, such as Tilapia, Catfish, and Mackerel (salmon) in Nigeria that continually stimulates sustainable growth and expansion of the industry.

There is so much information on the Internet about how to start fish farming in Nigeria, and we’ve tried to make this article as detailed and informative as possible to help you to build a fish farming business starting from the very beginning. Why should you choose to start a fish farm? Fish farming is a very profitable business to run. With correct planning and good management, you can easily get N4 million of pure income within half of a year.

Business plan for fish farming in Nigeria You can’t run a business without having a plan. A business plan is a necessary tool for creating a proper image of your future production. It helps to set goals and find ways to achieve them. You can create such a plan on your own or ask for expert’s help. Write down a complete description of what you want your business to be like. Set goals, consider all the issues you have to solve like how much you’ll pay for renting land and how much you’ll spend on building ponds and fish breeding, then compare this total to the amount you want to earn and think over how much fish you can breed and sell to achieve your goals.

**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 is 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.

## **Types of fish farming**

* Catfish Farming:

Farming Catfish is the most popular type of aquaculture business in Nigeria. Catfish is known as an ingredient of many Nigerian dishes. The level of demand and ease of cultivation put this fish breed at the top of the market.

* Tilapia Farming:

This type of fish inhabits shallow streams, rivers, ponds, and lakes. Tilapia fish in second place, such fish grow rapidly even in poor quality water.

* Salmon (Mackerel) Farming:

This is a freshwater fish that is known for migration in the ocean. This type of fish can be successfully grown in fish farms. There is such known meal as “Titus” this is Salmon fish product that is purchased by millions of Nigerians on a daily basis.

## **Main points of farming business**

* The issue of location

The main factors in the choosing of the location are:

1. Security in the vicinity
2. Proximity to the nearest town
3. The presence or absence of fish prey
* Land Mass

It is possible to start with a plot of land, there is a case when people start even in the backyard. Choose the territory in a not-so-rural area, this is a way to buy land at a lower price.

* Pond Planning

It is better to appeal for services of an aquaculture consultant. The professionals can determine what kind of pond you need, examine your goals, and provide all the needed conditions of the fish pond.

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* Source Of Water Supply

One of the main factors of the proper development. You need proper borehole system near the source of quality water supply. Remember that chemically treated and rainwater can’t be used. You need to provide a steady flow of fresh water for the development of your business.

* Storage System

The system of storage should be designed right from the onset of your business. All the feeds need a dry and cool place, protected from any pest.

Good knowledge of running a fish farm. Actually, this is the most important point, because, without knowledge, nothing will work properly. This type of business requires specific knowledge about aquaculture and fish farming. You can attend lectures or seminars, communicate with farmers and read information on the internet.

## **Fish farming business plan step by step**

* Step 1

Setup a 10ft X 10ft earth fish pond with a depth of about 4ft to 6ft, for this purpose you need around $500 to $750 (100,000 to 150,000 Naira). Such a pond can hold about 1,000 grown fishes. It is also possible to use concrete pond, drum pond or plastic tank.

* Step 2

Important point is to disinfect your pond with anti-bacterial and anti-fungi.

* Step 3

Choose and purchase juveniles and fingerlings for your fish pond. The price of good fingerlings is around 20 Naira each, juveniles cost around 40 Naira each.

* Step 4

Remember that it is necessary to feed the fishes once or twice a day. Proper feeding intervals can contribute to the fishes gaining weigh quickly. The type of food depends on the type of fish. It is necessary to study all the details of feeding very well because this item is one of the most significant in this business.

* Step 5

Sort the fish to create better conditions for life and gloving. Sort the fish according to the size to ensure equal compete for food and space.

* Step 6

Be ready to change the water regularly, this will reduce the level of diseases rate and improve the longevity of fish. Change the water every 2 or 3 days.

* Step 7

Always study the market, understand the needs of buyers. Contact potential buyers and find out their requests and desires. Discuss the details of your fishery products about 2 months before the deal.

## **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.

This business is difficult to call easy, but it is worthy of all the necessary efforts. We can see many examples of successful farmers who are happy to help beginners, so it's worth a try.

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* Source Of Water Supply

One of the main factors of the proper development. You need proper borehole system near the source of quality water supply. Remember that chemically treated and rainwater can’t be used. You need to provide a steady flow of fresh water for the development of your business. 3. Wells Good water supply is the lifeblood of fishing, and its absence can lead to disaster since water needs to be regularly changed. Naturally available water sources, such as borehole and river water, are the most suitable. Rainwater and tap water from a chemically treated source is not recommended for growing fish. Provide regular water exchange to create a friendly environment. You can install an aboveground tank, which will provide the convenience of supplying water to your ponds when necessary. Do not forget about the water filtration system.

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