Rearing fry of red nile (*Oreochromis sp.*) in a floating net cage

Adaptability of the technology

This technology is best suited to small -scale farmers, since only a relatively small investment is needed.

Rearing the fish

Rearing of Red Nile (a kind of tilapia) fry begins when the fry weigh about 3 grams, and lasts until they reach around 35 grams in weight. It aims at providing fish that will be reared for consumption. Rearing techniques can follow the methodology below:

Preparing the net cage

Prepare 4-unit floating net cages of 3 x 3 x 1 m and 8-unit floating net cages of 1 x 1 x 1 m in one raft. The net can be made from polyethylene netting.

Preparing the fingerlings

Prepare 1 kg of red nile fingerlings (about 5 grams each). The number of fish will be about 450-500 fish per m^2. Introduce the fingerlings into the cage at night, or at dawn before sunrise.

Feeding the fish

Feed with pellet feed with a 28-30% protein content. The amount of feed provided depends on the age of the fish.

- 1^{st}-2^{nd} week, 7% of body weight;
- 3^{rd}-4^{th} weeks , 6% of body weight;
- 4^{th}-5^{th} weeks, 5% of body weight;
- 7^{th}-harvesting time, 3% of body weight.

The feed is divided into three parts and given to the fish in the morning, at noon and in the evening.

Harvesting the fish

The fish can be harvested after eight weeks. The weight should be about 35 grams/fish.

Note: Agricultural technologies are highly location specific. For this reason, please try new technology first on a small scale to see if it works well in your own field.

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Above and below: Floating net cages