



# SANBio FISH NODE NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4

OCTOBER, 2009

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Fish Node Plan for Implementation of the Fish Diversity Project 1
- SANBio Fish Node Program Assistant selected for a prestigious AWARD Fellowship 1
- Fish Node harvests fish from the On-farm Research Project 2
- A Volunteer in SANBio Fish Node; To attend Project Management Training in RSA 2
- DeLPHE Fish Project Holds a Dissemination Workshop 2

## Editorial:

Welcome to the third issue of SANBio Fish Node Newsletter. This is a quarterly newsletter containing news items on the Fish Node.

Editor: E. Kaunda  
Sub-editor: M. Matsimbe

## Contacts:

SANBio Fish Node Coordinator

Aquaculture and Fisheries  
Science Department, Bunda  
College, P.O. Box 219, Lilongwe, Malawi.

## FISH NODE PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FISH BIODIVERSITY PROJECT

The SANBio Fish Node will shortly be implementing its flagship project entitled 'Fish Biodiversity of Inland Rivers of Southern Africa'. The project will focus on Fish Biodiversity studies of inland rivers including Kafue in Zambia, Linthipe and other rivers in Malawi and Bengo river in Angola. Hence, the fish node had a planning meeting for the project from 20-21 July, 2009 at Sun 'n' Sand Holiday Resort in Mangochi, Malawi. The meeting had regional participants from Malawi, Zambia, South Africa, Namibia and Angola.

The outcomes of the meeting were; a clear understanding of the project concept by partners and a practical, workable and executable implementation plan of the project.

The Fish Biodiversity Project has secured funding of up to EURO 360,000.00 from the Government of Finland and South Africa under a bilateral programme called BIOFISA. The project will complement other initiatives at Bunda College, including the Regional PhD program in Aquaculture and Fisheries supported by the Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM).



*Participants at the Fish Biodiversity Project meeting at Sun 'n' Sand in Mangochi, Malawi*

## SANBIO FISH Node Program Assistant Selected For A Prestigious AWARD Fellowship



*SANBio Fish Node  
Program Assistant: Ms  
Msekiwa Matsimbe*

The SANBio Program Assistant, Msekiwa Matsimbe was on 21st July, 2009 selected as one of the winners of the prestigious African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) Fellowship. Sixty one women were selected from 48 institutions, in 10 sub-Saharan countries working in 15 different fields contributing to agricultural development on the continent.

As a start to the two year fellowship program, Ms Matsimbe is expected to attend a Mentoring Orientation Workshop (MOW) from 12-16 October, 2009 in Mombasa (Kenya) with her Mentor, Prof. Emmanuel Kaunda.

This is the second year the AWARD has identified and honored outstanding African Women scientists to receive career-development resources aimed at strengthening their expertise as pro-poor researchers while also positioning them as leaders.

The AWARD Fellowships are awarded by the Gender and Diversity (G&D) Program of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). The G&D program is hosted at the World Agroforestry Center in Nairobi, Kenya.

OCTOBER, 2009

## Fish Node harvests Fish From the On-Farm Research project

The Fish node finally harvested fish from on farm research project entitled *"Improving fish production from small scale earth ponds in Malawi: On-Farm economic and technical (feasibility) analysis of the use of plastic sheeting for enhanced growth and productivity of Oreochromis shiranus in earthen ponds*. The project experiment was conducted at T.A. Chiwere, Village Headmen Sada and Matchayasimbi in Dowa district. Fish were harvested on 8th August 2009 after a culture period of 252 days. The highest average fish weight was 57grams realized in ponds that were half covered by a clear plastic sheet.

The experiment confirmed that covered ponds lead to increased fish growth. Hence, the results of the on-farm research experiment tallied with the on-station results which suggested that increased temperatures due to plastic sheeting result in improved growth of tilapia.

It is expected that a new set of experiments will be conducted during the upcoming warm months.



Farmers harvesting fish from one of the fish ponds in Dowa district



Part of the fish harvest

## A Volunteer Joins SANBio Fish Node; To attend Project Management Training in RSA



Bernardo Gideon: SANBio Volunteer

Bernardo Gideon joined SANBio Fish Node as a volunteer on 10th August 2009. He is playing a crucial role as an Acting Assistant Fish Node Coordinator. He will be attending a three day Project Management training session in South Africa from 13-15 October, 2009. The training will mainly focus on concrete measures of project management, monitoring of project activities to meet project goals among others. The training workshop has been organized by SANBio/BioFISA Project.

Welcome to the SANBio Team!

## DeIPHE Fish Project Holds a Dissemination Workshop

The DeIPHE project hosted a one day dissemination workshop on 17th September 2009 at Crossroads Hotel in Lilongwe. The workshop entitled; *"On Fishes of Lake Malawi and its Inflow Rivers: What's New?"* was aimed at disseminating some recent research findings on Lake Malawi and its inflow Rivers.

The workshop marked the end of the project entitled *"Capacity Building in Fisheries Research in Malawi"*. The project was funded by the UK Government Department of International Development (DfID) and was implemented through British council by the University of Malawi (Bunda College & Chancellor College) in partnership with Mzuzu University and Bangor University. The overall goal of the project was to develop capacity for research into fish & fisheries biology and conservation of aquatic resources through staff exchange, collaborative research programmes and curriculum review and development of new teaching materials.



Participants at the DeIPHE dissemination Workshop at Crossroads Hotel, Lilongwe