



SANBio FISH NODE NEWSLETTER

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the second issue of NEPAD SANBio Fish Node Newsletter. This is the monthly newsletter containing news items on the Fish Node.

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National Research Council of Malawi (NRCM) supports Research Project for SANBio Fish Node

The NRCM has funded an On -Farm research project titled 'Improving fish production from Small Scale earth ponds in Malawi: On-Farm economic and technical (feasibility) analysis of the use of plastic pond sheeting from enhanced growth and productivity of *Oreochromis shiranus* in earthen ponds'.

This research project has been implemented in Dowa district of Central Malawi. The project site is in Dowa East at Nachisaka Extension Planning Area (EPA) in villages Matchayasimbi and Sada. The project sites were selected on 22nd April, 2008 and pond lay outs and construction started on 2nd June, 2008. Presently, all the six ponds for two replicates have been completed at Mrs Flora Mwase's and V.H. Matchayasimbi's farms.



Ponds at Mrs Flora Mwase's Farm



Ponds at V.H. Matchayasimbi's Farm

Significance of the Research

This on-farm applied research proposal stems out of an on station study which showed that clear plastics sheeting can increase fish production by more than hundred per cent. This proposal is aimed at building the capacity of the SANBio Fish Node as a knowledge generation unit and which will propel the node into the centre of excellence within the region, thus living up the expectation. It is hoped that this study if successful will be replicated in SANBio member states.

Malawi is a small developing land locked country in Southern Africa that's home to over 11.9 million people. Fish, primarily tilapias, contribute 60-80% of the protein in Malawi's annual diet, which has traditionally come from capture

fishery in Lake Malawi. Aquaculture of tilapias is proving to be a great potential supplement, not only for nutritional value but also as an additional source of income for many local farmers. Consumer acceptance as food fish is high due to tilapias palatability, hence market demand is assured.

The production and economic returns of fish culture systems is determined by the growth of a species being cultured, quality and quantity of inputs used in production, types and level of technology employed on the farm, the amount and availability of quality fish food and water complemented by appropriate management techniques.

Water temperature is an

important environmental factor which enhances growth and survival of *Oreochromis shiranus*. *O. shiranus* occurs at temperatures ranging from 23.0-42.0°C. Temperatures in Dowa are generally low, so the clear plastic sheeting cover on the pond will increase temperatures to enhance production.

Expected Output

It is expected that the project will show whether on station results which suggested that plastic paper increased temperature and therefore production of tilapia do apply on the farm . By constructing fish ponds on farmers' fields, experimental units for Bunda College and SANBio will have been established through this study.

JULY 2008

Bunda Hosts a Fisheries Network for Southern Africa (FISHNET-SA)

At the CTA/NEPAD/RUFORUM/BUNDA ASTI Training of Trainer Workshop held on 5- 9 May 2008 at Sun 'n Sand, Mangochi (Malawi), the FISHERIES NETWORK FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA (FISHNET-SA) was formed with the overall aim to enhance fisheries and aquaculture production and biodiversity using Science, Technology and Innovation system to:

Facilitate exchange of information among the private sector (fishers, farmers, input suppliers) in the region.

- Facilitate exchange of scientists within the region.
- Facilitate joint supervision of postgraduate students within the region.

- Facilitate implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Agricultural Science and Technology Innovative (ASTI) activities in fisheries and related areas within the region.

Members also agreed to include members from outside the Region so long as their interests are to improve and enhance fish and fisheries activities in Southern Africa.

The NETWORK will work within the framework of the vision, and activities of NEPAD Fish, NEPAD Biosciences Initiatives, SADC FANR and Water Division and RUFORUM as set out in the strategic plans and protocols.

The network will be hosted at Bunda College of Agriculture



Participants Attending ASTI - Meeting at Sun 'n' Sand.



Participants of the ASTI - Meeting at Sun 'n' Sand.

Regional PhD in Aquaculture and Fisheries Science at Bunda College

Bunda College of Agriculture, University of Malawi, invites applications from suitably qualified candidates for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Aquaculture and Fisheries Science which starts in August, 2008.

The program is designed for 3-4 years (full-time) and will consist of 2-3 semesters (1.5 years) of course work and 5 semesters (2.5 years) of research. Students may specialize in one of the following areas;

Aquaculture Production Technology

Fisheries Science and Management

Applications forms can be downloaded from RUFORUM or Bunda College websites www.ruforum.org and www.bunda.unima.mw, respectively, or by writing to:

Limited scholarships are available on competitive basis through Regional Universities Forum for capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM). Interested candidates are therefore encouraged to source own funding.

The estimated cost of training for the program is US\$55,655. This will cover administration fees, tuition, research and student welfare.

Entry Requirements: MSc degree in Aquaculture, Fisheries or related field

The Registrar
Bunda College of Agriculture
P.O. Box 219
Lilongwe.
Malawi
Email: pgsr@bunda.unima.mw

METHOD OF APPLICATION

The following are required for your application to be complete:

Two copies of completed application forms.

Two confidential reports, from two academics who can comment on your academic record and research capabilities.

Academic transcript and copies of certificates.

A processing fee of **US\$50** for foreign applicants and **K3,500.00 (US\$25)** for Malawians.

1 page outline of research project of interest (Concept note)

Applicants outside Malawi may apply to:

RUFORUM Secretariat
Plot 151 Garden Hill
Maker ere University
P.O. Box 7062, Kampala, Uganda
Email: secretariat@ruforum.org