

## Cages will improve yields and profits

With an existing enabling policy, availability of good quality fish seed, feed and water resources, fish farmers can improve their yields and profits.

Yields from cages are about 180 Kg/m<sup>3</sup> compared to pond based ( 0.2 Kg/m<sup>3</sup> ) fish farming. Nevertheless, better management practices are crucial to achieve these profits or yields.



Seven -month old Nile tilapia (+400 g)  
harvested from cages



A ( 1x1 x1) m<sup>3</sup> cage has capacity to  
produce 0.5 tones of fish

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## Aquaculture Research & Development Center - Kajjansi Cage Culture: A new Strategy for Increasing fish yields and profitability



# Growing fish in Cages

Commercialization of fish farming in Uganda is achievable through efficient production systems like cages. Cage farming is mainly practiced on lakes, rivers and reservoirs after the approval from Government of Uganda.

Advantages of growing fish in cages:

- Cost of a cage is about 1/10th that of a pond which produces the same yields.
- Land ownership is not required.
- Cage materials are available in Uganda.
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- Cage fish farming provides alternatives to fishing.
- Floating feeds (extruded pellets) are available in Uganda.

## Requirements for production of fish in cages?

1. A high quality fish feed : preferably extruded pellets with a complete diet and these are available in Uganda.
  2. Proper cage design that is practical, cost effective and prevents predators.
  3. Good quality and healthy fingerlings from government or certified private hatcheries. Preferably, the fingerling seed should be all males because they grow faster.
  4. Lakes or reservoirs with good water quality; i.e. temperatures above 25°C. Use of low quality feed will pollute the waters and can make cage culture unprofitable.
  5. Security for the cages is very important after they have been installed.
- NOTE :** It is highly recommended to consult an aquaculture or cage specialist when selecting a site for cage farming.

## Productivity from Cages

Yields from a cage are 180 Kg/m<sup>3</sup> when growing tilapia using floating feeds. Yields from ponds are usually 0.2 Kg/m<sup>3</sup>.

## Profitability from Cages

Tilapia grown in cages is sold profitably because of its good taste, size and texture. The enterprise budget below shows profits from one cage.

Enterprise budget for Nile tilapia grown in (2x2x2) m<sup>3</sup> cage for seven month

|                       | Inputs                 | Unit | Price /unit (Shs) | # Unit | Total (shs) |
|-----------------------|------------------------|------|-------------------|--------|-------------|
| Total Revenue         | Tilapia                | kg   | 3500              | 1050   | 3,675,000   |
| Total, variable costs | Seed, Feeds, Labor etc |      |                   |        | 3,338,000   |
| Total Fixed costs     | Cages, Nets, etc       |      |                   |        | 1,800,000   |
| Net Income above TVC  |                        |      |                   |        | 337,000     |