

FISH CULTURE PROJECT (KIGOMA)

The Local Investment Climate (LIC) is a private sector development programme supported by Danida. LIC addresses critical constraints to business development and economic growth at district level in the two regions of Dodoma and Kigoma in Tanzania. The programme invests in Public-Private Dialogue (PPD), business service facilities such as One-Stop-Business Centres and Public-Private-Partnership infrastructures in support of business development. The implementing partner agencies of LIC are; The President’s Office – Regional Administration and Local Governments (PO-RALG), the Regional Secretariats in Kigoma and Dodoma, Tanzania National Business Council (TNBC), Association of Local Authorities in Tanzania (ALAT), Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) and Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA).

Aquaculture has been identified as potentially viable business opportunity hardly explored in Tanzania. Lucrative species could include Tilapia and Catfish fish produced in freshwater cultures and seaweed, Crabs, Milkfish and Prawns produced in marine cultures. The sector however is still characterized by limited supply of quality aquaculture inputs (fingerlings, seeds and feed), low technology, limited knowledge and low levels of investment.

In October 2018 LIC – within its Youth into Business program -responded to the request from the youth group ‘One Word Group’ to support the undertaking of a fish culture project in Kibirizi, Kigoma. One Word Group consists of recent graduates from the Fisheries Education and Training Agency (FETA) in Kigoma and now receives LIC support to produce fish for local consumption. Making use of the currently high demand, the group will also produce fish feed and fingerlings for sale to other fish pond holders in Kigoma Region and eventually beyond. Furthermore, the group will offer training and extension services to fish farmers.

In 2017, the group managed to establish one test pond and stock it with 1,000 Tilapia fingerlings. The first harvest took place in August 2018. LIC support to the group includes financing of a multi-parameter water quality meter, a floating fish feed machine with a capacity of producing 0.12-0.15ton/hour, a milling machine with a capacity to produce 1.5ton/day, 10 big cooler boxes, solar panel supply, harvesting gears, fencing facilities and water pipes.

LIC has furthermore sponsored One Word Group members to participate in a one-week training in agribusiness and a three-days training at Ruvu fish farm in the Coastal region. Guided by a professional fish and fingerling producer, which has been in business for 8 years, the training at the fish farm was highly practical. Ready to start their own business, One Word Group received its first batch of fingerlings in December 2018 from Mbeya, and a second batch from Ruvu fish farm in January 2019.



Fish hatchery



Nursery ponds

Project highlights and achievements

The group has constructed three aquaculture ponds - two with capacity for 3,000 fingerlings and a third with capacity for 5,000 fingerlings. The ponds were filled with fingerlings of the Tilapia species. The two first ponds are expected to produce the first Tilapia harvest in July 2019 and fish from the third pond will be harvested in October 2019.



Fish pond



Fish feed extruder machine

This exemplary support from LIC to the One Word fish culture project is expected to stimulate further interest in fish farming as a business among other investors in the region. Such new investors could buy fingerlings and fish feed from the One Word Group, once their production has started. Many areas of Kigoma region are blessed with ample water resources and fish farming can become an important business for many small and medium-scale producers.

Furthermore, it is expected that the LIC modality of support to self-help groups for engaging youth into agribusiness will be replicated by other youth supporting organizations and by other youth groups. The extension and training services offered by the One Word Group will be enabling for others to follow – not only in fish farming but in establishing small businesses in general, using the start-up strategy of the One Word Group. This group has demonstrated a big commitment and willingness to work hard to reach their goals, which has always been a global recipe for success in business. A close-by demonstration by a committed group of youth in Kigoma will surely be a powerful role model and reminder of how to achieve success for others to follow.

LIC has invested approx. TZS 37 million in the establishment of the One Word fish culture project. The LIC programme has been running since 2014 and will continue to support public and private sector development projects in the regions of Kigoma and Dodoma until 2020.

For further information, please visit www.lic.or.tz

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