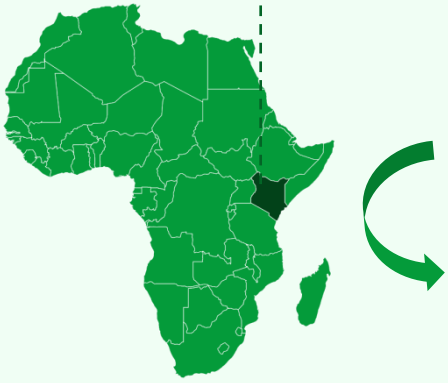
Integrated Fish and Poultry Farming

Good Practice AT A GLANCE

KNOW-HOW 3000



Experience of DESECE – Development Education Services for Community Empowerment

In Kamukuywa Town, Bungoma County, Western Province, KENYA

The project region faces challenges of malnutrition, due to a diet poor in proteins. The economic situation of many households deteriorated during the COVID-19 pandemic. More pronounced climate variability due to climate change oftentimes results in loss of harvest. Therefore they cannot afford protein-rich food.

The solution: Introducing a novel practice of integrated fish and poultry (or rabbit) farming. This farming system allows supply of animal proteins while demanding little space and few external inputs. It has a potential to enhance food security of smallholder farmers.

Experience description

The organic farmer Robert Partis, a beneficiary of DECESE, developed the method of integrated fish and poultry farming. In this innovative practice, poultry litter is used for growth of plankton which is eventually used to feed fish. The sale or use of by-products (rabbit urine, poultry litter) as fertilizer for agriculture closes the nutrient cycle and provides additional income.
Mr. Partis constructed a poultry pen and a fish pond with support from his family and community members. Once the farming system was established, members of the local community and farmer groups were invited to learn from his experience.

Other characteristics

IMPACTS

- Enhanced food sovereignty
- Improved nutritional value of diets by access to animal protein
- Income generation through sale of produce and by-products
- Reduced demand for inorganic fertilisers
- Alternative livelihood options provided by the practice enhance resilience of farmers

CHALLENGES

- Periodic water shortage due to changing weather patterns / climate variability
- Security issues and theft of animals

LESSONS LEARNED

- A market survey should be conducted in advance to optimize the marketing strategy for the produce
- Rainwater harvesting and storage techniques should be utilised to ensure sufficient supply of water during dry periods

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