

**Progress Report for the
GlobalGiving Funding**

December 3, 2007

Title of project: Enhancing school feeding programs through aquaculture in sub-Saharan Africa

Introduction

This report covers activities done up to end of November 2007. The new plans for Global Giving were to target primary schools - assist in constructing ponds, stock the ponds with fish and use the fish into the existing school feeding program. We opted for this based on the slow and inadequate funding we are getting from subscribers.

By doing this we will improve the nutritional status of food-insecure school children by integrating fish supplies from small-scale aquaculture production into on-going school feeding programs. It will thereby improve the educational achievements of children, in particular girls and children from poor and food-insecure families. Malnutrition and micronutrient deficiency are key constraints to human development among millions of people in sub-Saharan Africa, in particular children and adolescents. The Project will explore two avenues for sustainable fish supply to schools, (i) school fish ponds and related management activities as part of an expanded school curriculum, and (ii) linking clusters of local small-scale fish farmers as suppliers to school feeding programs. Both strategies have proven successful in other regions and food sectors, and, given the growing adoption of small-scale aquaculture technologies in sub-Saharan Africa, this is the right time to harness the nutritional benefits from fish for some of the continent's most vulnerable populations.

Progress to date

The village communities were sensitised on the concept and agreed to target 2 schools namely Ntanangala and Samalani Full Primary schools (see pictures below). These schools were selected based on enrollment numbers and potential for construction of fish ponds. Both schools have an enrollment of about 1000 each with an average of 28% girls. Girl dropping out from school is high in both schools mostly because of poverty from increasing food insecurity.



Picture 1a: Planning meeting at Ntanangala School



1b: Planning meeting at Samalani School

Planning meetings were then held with the parents, guardians and the teaching staff of the two selected schools. An action plan was drawn where parents were to provide over 80% of the labour required in pond construction and diversion of water. Due to inadequate funding Ntanangala was prioritised for the first phase that started in June 2007. Four ponds of average 300m² were constructed within a month (see picture below).



2: Guardians appreciating their good work while a technician helps to fix a water inlet pipe

When the construction of ponds was completed the parents also worked together to supply water to the ponds. This was done by digging a canal about 900 meters long to divert part of the water from a nearby stream.



3: Ntanangala canal supplying water to school fish ponds

The ponds were stocked with fish in August 2007 and it will take six months to have the first fish harvest. The ponds have now been fenced to protect them from young children and are fed daily by the senior classes as part of the school extra curricula activity. This work (excluding labour) has costed \$800.

Future Plans

This Project is intended to deliver four main outputs: (i) productive fish ponds at pilot schools, and guidelines for scaling up these successes in the region; (ii) viable commercial links between small-scale fish farmers and ‘home-grown school feeding programs’, and good practice models for wider application; (iii) modules for training and education of youth in fish farming in school as well as farm contexts; and (iv) Good Practice Guidelines for efficient utilization of aquaculture products in school feeding programs, and improved understanding of nutritional benefits of fish-based school meals.

As such there is need to train the teachers and school management committee in:

- Better pond aquaculture management skills
- Improved plant-based supplementary feeds and feeding
- Fish handling and harvesting
- Integration of fish farming with agricultural crops

There is also need to add two more ponds to get a minimum of 6 ponds depending on land availability. With 6 ponds we can manage to supply fresh fish atleast twice a month during the school calendar. The will give approximately 50 kilograms at each harvest and one pond could be harvested twice providing 25kilograms to the school feeding program. The water from the ponds will also be used to grow fruits and vegetable again for the

feeding program. The sale of baby fish (fingerlings) will generate income for the school which will be used to buy other small school items e.g. football/netball, chalks and even minor repairs of latrines etc



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