

EMPOWERMENT OF HIV/AIDS WOMEN GROUP THROUGH MANGULUKENI FISH FARM

A CASE STUDY FROM NAMIBIA

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PART 1: OVERVIEW/STATUS OF AQUACULTURE IN NAMIBIA

- ◉ Year 2003-The Government of the Republic of Namibia (GRN), through the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) introduced the Aquaculture policy
- ◉ The policy called for “The promotion and development of responsible and sustainable aquaculture”
- ◉ The purpose was to provide a legal/institutional framework for the Aquaculture Industry
 - For food security
 - Poverty reduction through employment and
 - Attract foreign investment
- ◉ In order to stimulate the interest (in fish farming), the GRN spearheaded Aquaculture pilot projects in different regions of the country

OVERVIEW/STATUS OF AQUACULTURE IN NAMIBIA cont.

- In the inland the interest was fresh water aquaculture (pilot projects -GRN)
 - About 8 fish farms in the North and North eastern regions
 - Under the management/technical custody of the MFMR
 - Community members are the beneficiaries of the farm profits
 - Integrated Aquaculture approach was adopted, growing fish and vegetables
 - Species - Three spot tilapia (*Oreochromis andersonii*), The African Sharptooth catfish (*Clarias gariepinus*) and a variety of fruits and vegetables

OVERVIEW/STATUS OF AQUACULTURE IN NAMIBIA cont.

- At the coastal towns the interest was mostly into commercial ventures for export
 - Oysters to South Africa and Asia
 - Abalone to Asia and
 - Seaweed to Asia

OVERVIEW/STATUS OF AQUACULTURE IN NAMIBIA cont.

- ◉ The GRN regards Aquaculture as a priority in its mid-term and long-term planning to address food shortage and poverty
- ◉ Aquaculture campaign was made more significant in the North and North eastern regions where the majority of the population is concentrated

OVERVIEW/STATUS OF AQUACULTURE IN NAMIBIA cont.

- Aquaculture in Namibia is still in the infant phases
- The aquaculture industry is still faced with lack of
 - Capital
 - Training
 - Expertise
- However the response to GRN was served
 - Communities have started benefiting through fish (food) and monetary income
 - Commercial farmers are stocking ponds and dams on their farms
 - Feasibility study and site assessment requests are on the increase
 - Communities are coming up with own aquaculture projects
 - The following case study was borne as a result of the government initiative

PART 2: CASE STUDY

- ◉ The case study: EMPOWERMENT OF HIV/AIDS WOMEN GROUP THROUGH MANGULUKENI FISH FARM
- ◉ Project was the idea of the Oshikuku HIV/AIDS Support Group (OSG)
- ◉ OSG was established in 2007 to provide support to HIV infected and affected people of Oshikuku
- ◉ The group was intended to provide counselling while participating in some group project
- ◉ The idea of a fish farm was incepted through these process
- ◉ The project was to serve as a means of generating income as well as to provide an interactive environment to the group members

THE PROJECT

- The project was named 'Mangulukeni Fish Farming Project,' meaning to “be free” in the local language.
- This project name calls on the members of the group as well as the larger community *to be free*:
 - to share their experiences with one another,
 - of the stigma associated with HIV/AIDS and
 - to live a positive life.
- To serves as a means to generate income while addressing both economic and psychosocial challenges

THE PROJECT cont.

- The project was implemented in 2007 with the technical guidance of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR)
- The project is comprised of 11 members, 1 male and 10 female and supports 92 people, 46 of whom are children
- First harvest was in 2008 and the second in 2009



OPERATIONS OF THE PROJECT

- Members were familiarised with the running of a fish farm during a visit to existing GRN fish farm
- Members were advised to farm with the three spot tilapia (*Oreochromis andersonii*)
- 4000 tilapia fingerlings at an average weight of 2.9 g was stocked
- An average weight of 80 g per fish was recorded during the harvesting

OPERATIONS OF THE PROJECT

cont.

- This level of growth and production was clearly not economically viable and sustainable.
- Lucrative market for fish sales exist in the local Oshikuku area
- Chairperson and Treasurer of the support group are elected on a rotational basis

OPERATIONS OF THE PROJECT

cont.

- ◉ Pond care taking is detailed on a monthly schedule
- ◉ Leadership and management roles are shared amongst the group members
- ◉ This practice is empowering, allowing each group member to gain leadership and management experiences



SHORTCOMINGS

- ◉ The women had to harvest their pond 6 months later, due to flood
- ◉ This was due to catfish entering the tilapia pond during the floods of 2009.
- ◉ The first harvest yield of 2009 was less than expected due to catfish predation that entered the ponds through flood
- ◉ The fish harvested did not reach the desired market size and this led to low returns.

CHALLENGES

- ◉ The income generated from harvests not sufficient for running costs
- ◉ Funding is a crucial problem.
- ◉ Training

IMPACTS AND SUCCESSES

- Opportunities and benefits derived from the project include:
 - An opportunity for income generation;
 - An important source of protein
 - The fostering of business, management and leadership skills and;
 - Development of a sense of belonging, ownership and accomplishment, through involvement in a group project
- Spill-over benefits to the family members
- Working together at ponds allow members additional time to interact and share daily experiences



IMPACTS AND SUCCESSES cont..

- The project also demonstrates the influence women have in their families and society at large
- The members are enjoying a shared sense of
 - accomplishment,
 - independence,
 - self-worth and also
 - encouragement for the younger generation



CONCLUSION

- ◉ Despite these shortcomings and challenges the project have already generated positive impacts such as
 - Increased awareness of HIV/AIDS
 - Decreased in the stigma associated HIV/AIDS
 - Positive outlook on life to group members and community at large
- ◉ The socio - economic lesson learned from the case study:
 - Embodies the opportunities and hopes
 - Demonstrated the influence of women in community
 - Aquaculture as a tool for empowerment for the vulnerable groups e.g. women and children

FUTURE OUTLOOK AND WAY FORWARD

- A project proposal has recently been submitted to FAO Office in Windhoek for support via its TELEFOOD fund
- The project is planned to produce 3 to 4 tons of fish in its first year of the sought funding
- This figure is expected to increase each year
- The goal: short term and long term *profitability and self-sustainability*
- New proposed project plan
 - to be *implemented* by FAO representative (If approved)
 - To be *coordinated* by MFMR
 - To be *monitored* through annual site visits and regular reports



MANGULUKENI
FISH FARM

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING