



**Kenya Aquaculture Farmer to Farmer Program
18 January – 24 January, 2013
Trip Report**

Kevin Fitzsimmons

In January 2013, I was able to gain a cost share contribution for the project by getting free air fare to Kenya as part of an extended visit to the Middle East and Pakistan.

Tus-Houston Jan 18 12:20 Arrive IAH at 5:00 PM

In the Houston airport I met with three people (Marisa Hostrawser, Jerry Hartless, Richard Heard) who are starting a tilapia and rice farm in Mozambique and were interested to visit the farms in Kenya. In addition to providing details regarding tilapia farming in East Africa, I provided the local contacts and travel tips for Kenya and visiting Kenyan fish farms. Jerry and Richard subsequently visited the Dominion and Jewlet Farms to discuss collaborations and receive guidance on how best to proceed with their farm operations.

Depart Houston Jan 18 at 7:30 PM

Arrived Doha Qatar Jan 19 at 6:45 PM
Overnighted in Doha

Depart Doha Jan 20 at 7:35 AM
Arrive Nairobi Kenya on Jan 20, at 12:50 PM
Depart Nairobi Jan 20 at 5:15 PM
Arrive Eldoret Jan 20 at 6:05 PM

I was met at the Eldoret Airport by local AwF host and Eldoret University professor, Julius Manyala. We discussed the results of the prior visits by Drs. John Liu and Joe Molnar from Auburn University and Lukas Manomaitis from the American Soybean Association and Dr. Amrit Bart from the Asian Institute of Technology. We also detailed project progress and future plans on the drive in from the airport and then over drinks at the Nobel House Hotel.

On 21 January, Prof. Geraldine Matolla picked me up at the hotel and we drove to the Eldoret University campus. (Note this is the new name for the Chepkoilel branch campus of the larger Moi University). On arrival at the campus we drove to the Fisheries/Aquatic Sciences building to meet with staff and students. Later we met with university administrators to discuss the Farmer to Farmer program and confirm support for the visiting volunteers. Eldoret faculty and staff will continue to provide local transportation, arrange meetings with farmers and extension

staff from the Department of Fisheries, and provide R&D ponds on campus for training of farmers.

PROGRAM at ELDORET UNIVERSITY

21st January 2013

	Meet Head, Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences	
	Meet members of the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences to discuss aquaculture projects and training programs for farmers	
	Courtesy Call, at Dean, School of Natural Resource Management	
	Courtesy Call/Brief, Deputy Principal (Academics)	
	Courtesy Call/Brief, Deputy Principal (Finance and Administration)	
	Courtesy Call/Brief: Principal Chepkoilel University College	
	Lunch at faculty mess with aquaculture staff	
	Meet staff involved in the project/Free discussion	
	Discussion on activities/parameters to be monitored on ground	
	Visit lab facilities and fish ponds	

Research and development fish ponds on campus.



22nd January 2013

	View additional equipment (Chemistry Department)	
	View additional equipment (Forestry – Soil Science)	
	New opportunities in aquaculture for Kenyan farmers	
	Conference and Scientific meetings for sponsorships and participation	
	Lunch at faculty mess with aquaculture staff	
	Budget Review and Briefing	

	Administrative Issues	
	Developed detailed workplan for future visitor volunteers	
	Discuss constraints to the industry and how Farmer to Farmer / AwF volunteers can assist to overcome constraints	
	Check out of hotel and go for dinner at mid-town restaurant	

22 Jan 23:30 arrive at bus station to take overnight bus from Eldoret to Kampala. Fitzsimmons, Geraldine Matolla, Leah Kerengo, and Josiah Ani traveled together to participate in the fish farmers meeting.

Bus departed at 01:00 from Eldoret. Hit large stone on dirt road at 02:30, tearing off fuel line and puncturing fuel tank. Off load bus, scrounge pots and pans from local inhabitants to catch draining fuel. Waited two hours for mechanic to arrive and repair fuel line, fuel tank and pour remaining diesel back into tank.

Josiah, Kevin, driver, Geraldine and Leah waiting for mechanic to arrive.



04:30 continued trip. Arrived Kampala at 11:00

23 January – Participation in WAFICOS Fish farming conference including fish farmers from Kenya and Uganda.

The WAFICOS is the primary venue for describing advances in fish farming in East Africa. Approximately 150 farmers and extension agents participated. A small trade show was organized for vendors to demonstrate and sell products and services to the farmers. We were able to describe the Farmer to Farmer program and the contributions brought by the Farmer to Farmer / AwF volunteers.

Presentation at the WAFICOS conference



24 January - WAFICOS meetings continue. Presentations on alternative feeds, breeding of tilapia and Clarias catfish, drying and smoking procedures to preserve fish products and small scale marketing.

Evening Jan 24 Fitzsimmons departure for Qatar

25 January – Kerengo, Matolla and Ani participate in field trip to fish farms.

26 January - Kerengo, Matolla and Ani return on bus to Eldoret.

Specific Recommendations:

- 1) Need to update equipment and test kits for demonstration and training ponds
- 2) Fish brokers need to understand the need to invest in cold storage and presentation of fish products. We need to train and demonstrate better procedures.

How not to sell fish.....



- 3) Provide more complete training on water quality test kits. Need to train university staff and students first, then extension personnel and farmers.
- 4) Work with private sector farmers to get improved broodstocks and fingerlings for university projects. (This has already started with Enos McWere)
- 5) Organize a farmer's day workshop on campus for local aquatic farmers.
- 6) Obtain hammer mill, pellet mill and dryer in order to make pelleted feeds from locally available ingredients.
- 7) Develop and demonstrate a simple aquaponics system, to integrate fish culture with vegetable production.