

Holy Will Women Group

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Interim Report on the project:

AwF: Holy Women Group: Scaling-up Fish Farming to Mitigate Poverty
among Smallholders in Homa Bay County of Kenya

Prepared by:

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Holy Will Women Group
for

Aquaculture without Frontier (AwF) and other stakeholders,
including Ministry of Fisheries, Kenya Marine Research Station

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Preamble:

Holy Will Women Group, a community based organization that works with families ravaged with HIV/AIDS in the County of Homa Bay, successfully entered into a partnership with Aquaculture without Frontier in implementing a food-security initiative that aims to scale-up fish farming to mitigate poverty among smallholders in Homa Bay County of Kenya. It is anticipated that upon successful implementation of this project, the following tangible results will be realized:-

- Effectively strengthen the capacities of 24 members of the group with appropriate skills on semi-intensive fish farming for on-ward cascading, the same, to at least 800 small holders every year;
- Fully establish and maintain a semi-intensive model fish farm for training, production and demonstration on semi-intensive fish farming as viable venture in producing adequate nutritious food and creating sustainable incomes among small holders and youth in South Rachuonyo District;
- Produce over 16,000 high quality tilapia and catfish , every year, for members consumption and income creation;
- Increase average annual income of at least 824 small holders and youth that practice fish farming in South Rachuonyo District from USD 330 to USD 1,006 in a span of one year.

This project is being implemented in phases that are expected to cover a period of three years (2011-2013). Part of the first phase under review that had a budgetary implication of USD 8,590 is on going.

Report on Activities:

The following activities have been successfully implemented as highlighted here below:-

1. Acquisition of project input

Upon receipt of the first tranche, a meeting was held on August 2nd, 2011. This meeting reviewed the expenditure lines as was earlier on presented. A project implementation committee was there after mandated to incur costs, based on the lines agreed by both the parties. Thus, the following items have been purchased:-

- 140 pcs of fencing post
- 20 rolls of chain-link
- 10 kgs of U-nails
- 6 rolls of plain wire
- 5 Spades
- 10 Jembes
- 5 Pick Jembe
- 5 Slashers
- 2 Hand Dumper
- 5 rake

- 20 6ms 4'' Plastic Horse pipes
- 20 6ms 2'' plastic horse pipes
- 1 Water Pump
- Construction of water intake
- 300 tilapia fingerlings
- 1000 catfish fingerlings
- 5 bags of lime
- 50 Invitation Letters
- Assortments of Stationery
- 1 Digital Camera
- Communication

2. Mobilization meetings

Upon successful transmission of the initial granted funds from AwF, an aggressive awareness campaign was conducted by 5 selected group members using posters, meetings and public announcements in market places, churches, and even funerals. These activities were conducted between 9th and 15th of August, 2011. It is estimated that these exercises helped reached about 450 people, who some turned up during the fish farming education day.

3. Fencing -off the farm

Initially we had proposed to use chain-link as the most appropriate fencing system but the overall cost of materials that were to used proved prohibitive, thus we decided to use ordinary barbed wires and cedar posts. A total of 8 rolls of barbed wires and 250 posts were purchased and used in securing the farm. A metal-plate gate, with double shutters, was also purchased and installed at the farm's entrance. This action has greatly improved the security at the farm, as initial instances of unpermitted grazing at our farm have been eliminated.

4. Construction of 3 Additional Ponds

We embarked on this activity immediately the funds were received. A youth group named Rachounyo Youth for Development whose members had previously trained and have been mandated by the Ministry of Fisheries to facilitate construction of earthen ponds, under the *Kazi Kwa Vijana* Programme was engaged in conducting some of our members through practical activities involved in the construction of the fish ponds. The first two ponds were constructed between 22nd of August and 16th of September, 2011, with each pond having taken roughly 1½ weeks to complete.

However, the activities leading to the construction of the third pond (Pond No. 5) was suspended due a dry spell that rendered the soil completely unworkable from late September, 2011. However, short rains came back and the construction was completed on third week of the October, 2011.

5. Stocking of the ponds

The ministry of fisheries arranged for the acquisition and deliveries of tilapia fingerlings from the Dominion Farms in Yala. These deliveries were carried out in two batches. The

first batch of 2,000 fingerlings was delivered on 26th of September, 2011, while the other batch was brought on 4th of October, 2011.

However, catfish fingerlings were supplied by Kenya Marine Research Station (KMRS) on 10th of October, 2011. This action was partly motivated by the fact that KMRS offered and supplied the fingerlings without any charge, and the fact that the research station is situated less than 40 kms from the farm unlike Dominion Farms that was quite far.

6. Training:

a. Field day

As was originally planned, the first fish farming public education day was held on 14th of October, 2011. This important activity in our calendar of events registered the attendance of 165 peasants besides being graced by complete presence of the Area District Administrative Officer, the Chief and the Assistant Chief. The organizing committee of this public function decided to restrict four core topics of the day that included site selection, pond construction, pond stocking, feeding, fish predators and diseases. During facilitation, resource persons had technical reference revolving on application on Integrated Agricultural Aquaculture (IAA). Besides fish farming, other cross-cutting issues including HIV/ AIDS, Gender sensitivity and the need for adaptation of improved methodologies in growing of crops such as maize, millet and yams were emphasized. The sessions were facilitated by personnel from Ministry of Fisheries, Kenya Marine Research Station, Lake Basin Development Authority, Ministry of Gender and Sports, and National Aids Control Council.

During the closing session, the District Officer who was the guest of honor, advised the peasants to take advantage of the fishing farming exhibitions at the farm in order to enhance fish yields from their respective ponds. He further cautioned on unjustified idleness among local inhabitants, especially the youth as there are proof that fish farming a viable economic activity they could easily embrace.

b. World Food day

Interestingly, despite world food day having been organized in the neighboring farm, many people who turned up for the day crossed over the stream to have a look at our fish ponds and other assortments of poverty alleviation initiatives exhibited at our farm, including better utilization of dykes and cultivation of other hunger mitigation crops. The 2 members who were serving at the farms on the day had difficulties attending to their usual duties as they had to answer a lot of queries concerning the activities at the farm. A complementary letter from the District Poverty Eradication Committee has been received by us and there is possibility that this important event will be organized in our farm next year.

7. Others:

a. *Sweet potatoes and Collards*

It did not occur to us that the leaves of sweet potatoes from $\frac{3}{4}$ acre portion could turn out to be most important feed for the tilapia. After careful observation and recommendation

from technicians, we now include finely chopped sweet potato leaves or collards in our daily feeding program for tilapia.

b. Yam

We noticed that we were losing a lot of fertilizer through water that seeps from the ponds. A decision was therefore made to plant yams at the lower sections of the ponds. So far up to 600 yams have already been planted under this initiative. It is anticipated that at least 1,000 plants of yams will be planted upon the completion of the 8th pond.

c. Planting of Kikuyu Grass

Kikuyu Grass, a local grass that is recommended for planting on the dykes was acquired from Kisii and transplanted on sections of the dykes, other sections have been planted with collards that are being fed to fish.

d. Napier grass

Our farm being situated closer to the stream, the lower section in some instances, suffer water logging when the streams bursts its bank. A permanent precautionary step was therefore taken by planting Napier grass along contour lines in order to protect the lower dykes from any possible run-off. Apart from providing protection to the dykes, this grass that is grouped under fodder crops has turned out to a major source of income for the group as many livestock farmers queue to buy cuttings from us.

8. Challenges:

As is always with any project, the initiative encountered technical problems associated with over application of nitrogen and acquisition of substandard commercial feeds as explained here below:-

a. Red algae

We started spotting red algae in two of the ponds (Ponds 1 and 4) in the Month of September. The problem in the first pond has been identified to be attributed to the effect of cow-dung manure that we initially applied on the floor of this pond in our earlier attempts to propagate catfish. The 4th was fertilized with CAN without regard to the fact we intended to stock it with catfish. We have since been advised to continuously run water through these ponds. After being unsuccessful for a period of over one month, we resorted to scooping off the algae, but they still keep on coming back. We are seriously considering pumping out and replacing water from this pond.

b. Commercial Feed

From the own set, we have been using commercial feeds from Sigma Feeds from Nakuru based on recommendation from the Ministry of Fisheries. However, we noted that the latest supplies were not floating when being fed to the fish. This prompted us to enquire whether something was wrong. We have since been advised to immediately change to Unga Feeds that is renowned for their adherence standards in manufacturing of their products.

9. Financial Report (Expenditure)

Fencing

250 pcs of fencing post @ 250.00	-	62,500.00
8 rolls of barbed wire @ 5,000.00	-	40,000.00
8 kgs of U-nails @ 200.00	-	1,600.00
2kgs of wire nails @ 260.00	-	520.00
2 tonnes of Sand @ 700.00	-	1,400.00
1 tonne of Ballast @ 900.00	-	900.00
8 bags of Cement @ 800.00	-	6,400.00
1 Artisan @ 5,000.00	-	5,000.00
Sub Total	-	118,320.00

Tools

5 Spades @ 600.00	-	3,000.00
10 Jembes @ 450.00	-	4,500.00
5 Pick Jembes @ 900.00	-	4,500.00
5 Slashers @ 280.00	-	1,400.00
2 Hand Dumpers @ 1,400.00	-	2,800.00
5 rake @ 280.00	-	2,400.00
Sub Total	-	18,600.00

Others

20 6ms 4'' Plastic Horse pipes @ 120.00	-	2,400.00
20 6ms 2'' Plastic horse pipes @ 80.00	-	1,600.00
1 Water Pump @ 43,930.00	-	43,930.00
Construction of water intake @ 22,000.00	-	22,000.00
300 tilapia fingerlings @ 5.00	-	1,500.00
5 bags of lime @ 750.00	-	3,750.00
15 bags of Feeds @ 1,200.00	-	18,000.00
Subtotal	-	93,180.00

MOBILIZATION AND TRAINING

50 Invitation letters @ 50.00	-	2,500.00
165 Refreshments @ 200.00	-	33,000.00
4 Allowances @ 2,000.00	-	8,000.00
1 Transport @ 12,000.00	-	12,000.00
Sub Total	-	55,500.00

ADMISTRATION

Assortments of Stationery	-	3,200.00
1 digital Camera @ 9,000.00	-	9,000.00
Memory Card @ 1,200.00	-	1,200.00
Communication (Emails, postage, posters etc)	-	1,000.00
Bank Charges	-	2,000.00
Sub Total	-	16,400.00
Balance at Bank	-	5,000.00
Grand Total	-	307,000.00

NB: *This financial report does not include our part contribution.*

10. Annexure

Pictorial Report



Figure 1: Farm Entrance - Gateway to the Farm



Figure 2: A section of the Fence (Note the secured sweet potatoes and a pond at the far end)



Figure 3: Two of the three ponds constructed upon receipt of funds from AwF



Figure 4: A section of the group planting Kikuyu grass on the dyke



Figure 5: Two members on duty roster conducting routine feeding



Figure 6: A stand of collards on a dyke (Note the effect of excess manure)



Figure 7: A stand of yam planted behind the ponds

Conclusion:

It has been great pleasure working with Aquaculture without Frontier (AwF) in this project. As we continue implementing specific aspects of this project in progression, especially in the advent of higher prices of fish, we are becoming convinced more than ever before that this project would have not been initiated by us at better time. We are very proud of having been enabled to acquire hands-on skills on fish farming and already banking on treasures from the ponds.

Compiled by: _____ Sanctioned by: _____ Approved by: _____

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Dated: _____ day of November, 2011