



## **ICH- LIEBE -FISCH | I LOVE FISH PROJECT**

### **REPORT ON THE FIELD VISIT TO NKHOTAKOTA ON**

**11-12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2016**

**(SITE IDENTIFICATION AND STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION MEETING)**

### **INTRODUCTION**

A field visit was organized to Nkhotakota district to identify and inspect Innovative Fish Farmers that the project would work with in the area. Through the same trip it was expected that a potential project site would be identified and sensitization of the communities therein about the project was to follow. Furthermore, a meeting with the Nkhotakota District Fisheries Officer (DFO), District Agricultural Development Officer (DADO), was also arranged to facilitate awareness of government officials about the project.

### **MEETING WITH DFO & DADO**

The project PI together with other project partners held a meeting at Nkhotakota Agricultural Office. The project PI briefed the DADO and the DFO about the project, including the project objectives and the lifespan of the project. The DADO welcomed the project idea, emphasizing that it is a welcome development to the district where communities in the district will benefit. However, he emphasized that with the nature of the project and its duration, procedures should be followed before starting implementing the project. The DADO recommended that the whole District Executive Committee (DEC) should be briefed on the project so that they can be aware of what is happening in their district and help in the monitoring of the project to ensure sustainability once the project period phases out.

### **MEETING WITH INNOVATIVE FISH FARMERS**

The meeting was held at Benga Catholic Parish, one of the religious institutions working with fish farmers in that area. Representatives from fish farmers' clubs were also invited to the meeting through the IFFNT. Upon briefing the farmers about the project the fish farmers welcomed the project and were excited with the possibility of being project beneficiaries because they already practice fish farming and with some help they can improve their livelihoods. The

farmers said on average their pond size is 400m<sup>2</sup>. The fish farmer's representatives came from Mwansambo and Kachere villages.



*Figure 1 Female Fish farmers representatives*



*Figure 2 Male Fish farmers representatives*

## SITE INSPECTION

The project team together with the DFO, AEDO and IFFNT personnel managed to inspect some of the pond sites in the area. The team observed that Benga area has many fish farmers and ponds and the area is suitable for integrated agriculture-aquaculture (IAA). Within the same area, other farmers are practicing fish farming while others are practicing crop farming (mainly maize and rice). It was observed during inspection that fish ponds in the Mwansambo Village had water scarcity during this summer season unlike those from Kachere village due to Kachere's proximity to the lake. The average pond size was observed to be 400m<sup>2</sup> and they were over 30 ponds in this area with water. Father Fernando is a priest at Benga Parish who came to LUANAR to learn about breeding and fish feed formulation. Upon his visit, that's when it was discovered that he is working with fish farmers in the same project proposed area and he was excited with the possibility of working together to improve the community's livelihoods. The parish is working with 120 farmers who own 6 ponds (20 farmers per pond) in Kachere area which was inspected. It was also discovered that the Parish has hatchery facility which aims at breeding and rearing fingerlings then distribute to the fish farmers. The Parish will be good collaborator in this project because they are already based in the area and doing a remarkable work to fish farmers.



*Figure 3 Hatchery Facility at Benga Parish*

## **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion Benga area was inspected, farmers were sensitized on the project objectives and it was recommended that Benga section, of Ntosa EPA, had met the requirements established in the criteria of fish farming community suitable for the project. The following action points were therefore agreed upon

- To propose to DEC to meet them on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2016 so that it can be briefed about the project and seek its approval for the project to proceed