

SUSFORM-NOW (LDC) News No 21: Fish pond preparation techniques

A new fish raising season comes. Beginning of May is time when villagers prepare ponds for fish raising in order to harvest at the end of the year (before and after traditional New Year). The Livelihood Development Component (LDC) organized training workshops on fish pond preparation at 8 pilot villages. We present here steps of fish pond preparation techniques.



Figure 1. Fish pond

Fish pond requirements

- Area: at least 300 m² (Figure 1)
- Depth: 1,2-1,5m
- Banks: firm, without leaking, taller than the highest level of water 50 cm and clean.
- Pond floor: flat, with mud layer of 15-20 cm.
- Convenient to take water in and out.

Pond preparation

- Pond preparation should be normally done 7-10 days before raising fish.

- Withdrawn all water from pond (should use exit valves or pumps if needed)
- Check the thickness of mud layer (15-20 cm). If it is too thick, take mud out of the pond.
- Sterilize pond floor: use lime powder (7-10kg/100m²); Mix lime with mud. If the pond is acidic, more lime should be applied (15-20kg/100m²)

- Expose the floor to the direct sunlight for 3-4 days; leave the floor until it becomes dry.
- Put the manure into the pond to facilitate natural feed development as follow:
 - Manure (composted): 25-30 kg/ 100 m²
 - Green manure plants (*Siegesbeckia orientalis*): bind them into piles of 10-15 kg and then put 30-40 kg/100 m². Turn the piles after 1 week. Remove the piles after 2 weeks.
- Take water into the pond: use bamboo filter or small sized net to filter from the water harmful factors and other wild fishes getting in the pond. They are sources of diseases and competitors of the fish.
- Water should be taken into the pond for 2 times. First time: 40-50 cm depth. Soak the manure for 3-5 days. Then take enough water for fish raising at the second time before releasing fingerlings in the pond.
- The pond that is prepared as in the described process above will be clean of diseases, with green, transparent and nutritious water.



Figure 2. Sterilize the pond floor



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