

## SUSFORM-NOW (LDC) News No 22: Techniques to release and take care of fish

When fish pond preparation is completed, villagers need to procure fingerlings with clear origins and in good type in order to ensure the development of the fish. In this news, we are going to present to villagers techniques of releasing and feeding fish.



**Figure 1. Fingerling bags with oxygen**

### **Common fingerling types, ratio and density**

- Grass carp: 45 %, 10-12 cm
- Common carp: 5%, 6-8 cm
- Silver carp: 15%, 10-12 cm
- Monosexual tilapia: 17%, 4-6 cm
- Mud carp: 18%, 10-12 cm
- Density: 2 fingerlings/m<sup>2</sup>

### **Fingerling releasing technique**

- Fingerlings are safely kept in oxygen-filled bags.
- Soak the whole bags into the pond's water for 10-15 minutes in order to make equal temperatures inside and outside the bags.
- Open the bags and then take some water from the pond into the bags. Keep the bags for 1-2 minutes and then slowly bend the bags to release fingerlings into the pond.
- During the process, please do it slowly and gently to avoid heat shocks and injuries of fish.

## Feeding the fish

- You do not need to feed fish in the first 2 days as natural feeds in properly prepared ponds should be sufficient for fingerlings.
- In the following days, you need to add fine feeds that are made of available materials in the ratio below: rice bran 30%; corn powder 40%; soybean powder 20%; cassava powder 10%.
- The amount of feeds used for feeding varies on the weight of fish. It is 1-2% of the total estimated fish weight in the pond, divided into 2 times /day. Regularly check the remaining feeds left in the pond and adjust an additional amount of feed inputs.
- Vegetables, grasses, cassava leaves: 20% of total fish weight in the pond (divided into 2 times/day)
- Manure (composted): 10-15 kg/100m<sup>2</sup>/week
- Green manure plant (*Siegesbeckia orientalis*): 30-40 kg/100m<sup>2</sup>/2 weeks

## Taking care of the pond

- Mix lime powder with water and spread all over the pond with the rate of 1kg lime/100m<sup>2</sup> every 2 weeks. With this method, the water in the pond will not be acidified and will be less contaminated.
- Regularly check if there is any disease symptom or if there is any dead fish. If there is any strange symptom or dead fish, please contact the supplier or LDC staff for technical advices.



Date 10/05/2012 (Mã số 2.7.3)  
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