



## TILAPIA FARMING

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **Why Tilapia?**
  - a. It is the 3<sup>rd</sup> most farmed species in the World
  - b. The fish has a wide market appeal, rural to highly sophisticated
  - c. Labelled “The Aquatic Chicken” it is a protein source of the future
  - d. The fish can be farmed in a variety of locations and environments, is now farmed in 85 countries worldwide, Canada to Mexico, China to the USA, and all species are originally from Africa
2. **Where can I view a system in Africa?**
  - a. At the Farm in Muldersdrift Johannesburg as well as a number of other operations in Gauteng, around South Africa, all over Southern and Central Africa, Egypt, Nigeria, and Ghana.
3. **How much will 1 AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION UNIT (APU) cost me?**
  - a. Ex works Johannesburg as a ready to farm system currently R30 000.00 ex Vat.
4. **How many fish and tonnage can 1 AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION UNIT produce in 6 months?**
  - a. Up to 250 edible size fish per month +/-300g live weight
  - b. Up to 467 Kilograms live weight
5. **How many fish and tonnage can 1 AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION UNIT produce in 12 months?**
  - a. Up to 3000 edible size fish per year +/-300g live weight
  - b. Up to 933 Kilograms live weight
6. **Where can I sell the fish I produce?**
  - a. To a local market as fresh fish on ice
  - b. To a local market as a smoked fish
  - c. Directly of the farm to clients, traders, local hotels, restaurants and supermarkets.
  - d. Sign an off take agreement with David Fincham Aquaculture at the current market rate per Kg.
7. **How much water and electricity will I use with 1 AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION UNIT?**
  - a. The filters need flushing/Back Washing on a daily bases each cycle will use between 50-100 litres of water per day

- b. The system has been specifically designed for low energy and it uses only 300W of power per system, then equivalent of 3 light bulbs. To our knowledge, this makes it one of the world's most energy efficient systems available per Kg of fish produced.

**8. How many workers must I employ to look after 1 AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION UNIT?**

- a. As a single owner/operator unit, the work will be done by oneself with the assistance of any part time labour such as a gardener. The daily routines are feeding the fish as frequently as possible, flushing the filters a 10-15min job which needs to be done daily if possible. If stocking densities, feed rates are and expectant growth rates are not of concern then less often. The system has been designed to be robust in many cases and only pure negligence will cause the system to fail. Fish can go long periods without too much worry, as there is sufficient natural feed (algae) in the systems to allow the fish to survive.

**9. How much feed must I use for a 1 tank system and how much is it?**

- a. Feed rates are calculated and dependent of weight, size of the fish, water temperatures and expectant production figures. The current average price of feed is +/- R12.00 per Kg and the maximum amount of feed that can be fed in a AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION UNIT would be 4Kg per day. Feed constitutes up to 60% of one's production costs and it therefor needs to be managed effectively. Feeding is also the factor affecting, growth rates, fish health water quality and diseases. Most systems fail when two things happen: fish are overfed and the water is polluted. Feed should always be the best as well as the best value for money. Feed should be considered as an investment and not only as a cost of production.

**10. Where else can I read about Tilapia farming?**

- a. There are a number of great Newsletters, websites, Social media pages, magazines. Tilapia and aquaculture in general as well as stories diminishing on fish stocks are appearing almost daily. Fish is a vital source of protein, overfishing, illegal fishing and the disregard for the oceans and the freshwater resources of the planet are what is making the need to farm more fish critical. Farmed fish now exceeds both wild caught fish and beef as mankind's protein sources. This trend can only continue on an upwards trend. Google will bring up many of the pages, images and stories for you to follow. A few recommended sites are; Sarnissa, Farmers Weekly, The Fish Site, World Fish, Global Aquaculture Alliance, Undercurrent News, Fish Farming International.

**11. How do I apply for a permit to buy Tilapia whole fish and fingerlings?**

- a. Ask us to email you the applications. The requirements currently vary according to Location, Size of operation, Species to be farmed and generally take 3-6 weeks and costs are low for general applications. We require you to have permits so that we can sell you good quality stock. We also require applications within the system to build critical mass for the industry. Permits are a part of protecting our biodiversity, environment and industry. The data allows the industry to grow and to be recognised and provide legitimacy and accountability.

## **12. Can I get training?**

- a. From the first day you visit the farm your training will begin. The insight into Tilapia Farming, the explanation of the ins and outs of the industry, technology, genetics, stocking, growout are all part of imparting our knowledge, experience and vision for Tilapia farming in Africa. The follow up is dependent on the scale, intensity and time frames for the training required. All farmers who develop the 20MT/Annum modules will receive training for themselves and farm operators as well as 6 months mentorship and farm monitoring through reports. We also offer for those who are committed full time to other careers, “Wet Hands” on the farm practical sessions and work experience. Full theoretical training is also offered, as well as SETA Accredited Training.

## **13. Can I visit your farm?**

- a. Individual visitors, interested groups, schools, Government Departments, Universities, NGO's, small scale farmers, Co-operatives are all welcome to visit the farm. Email: [davidfincham@mweb.co.za](mailto:davidfincham@mweb.co.za) to set up an appointment.

In essence the APU is:

- a system designed to keep fish and water healthy;
- a user friendly operating system;
- Efficient in Land, Water and Energy use;
- Productive;
- Is environmentally friendly.

The APU will farm more fish, in more locations, putting more fish on more plates in more communities.

There is no need for rivers or lakes – just a system that allows more fish fresh from our farms to your plates.