COMMUNITY ACTION RESEARCH PROGRAMME (CARP)-FISH PROJECT
Enhancing Fish Production and Marketing for food Security and Income of small scale Producers

Goal
The project which is funded by Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building (RUFORUM) aims at increasing fish production and rural incomes through application of aquaculture innovations in the value chain.

Objectives
By 2013, fish production rate of fish farmers to increase from 750Kg to 1,500 kg in Dowa and Mchinji through:

- Adaptation and application of best bet technologies in fish pond management
- Analyzing and strengthening aquaculture value chain

Expected Outputs
- Capacity in action research, value chain analysis, organizational development and marketing in relation to aquaculture built through graduate training and research
- Key actors engaged, gaps, constraints, opportunities and innovations in the fish value chain for experiential learning and curriculum reform identified
- Breeding nuclei for improved strain at Bunda College consolidated and linked to multiplier fish farmers
- Best Bet technologies for production of improved Oreochromis shiranus identified and adapted
- Marketing efficiency estimated and best marketing strategies of fish determined.
- Critical success factors and impact of grass root farmer organisations and microfinance institutions on rural livelihoods identified

- Project effectively, successfully and sustainably managed

Project Partners
- Farmers Union of Malawi (FUM)
- Research into Use, Initiative for Development and Equity in African Agriculture (IDEAA)
- Trustees of Agriculture Promotion Programme (TAPP)
- World Fish Center (WFC)
- National Commission for Science and Technology (NCST)
- National Aquaculture Center (NAC)
- Kawjo Foundation.
- Research Into Use (RIU)

Carp project staff pose with farmers during pond site selection
Project Sites
The project is being implemented in Dowa and Mchinji Districts under Kasungu and Lilongwe Agricultural Development Division respectively, in central Malawi.

Achievements made so far
- 3 postgraduate students enrolled and engaged with farmers in action research, value chain analysis, organizational development and marketing in relation to aquaculture
- Five farmer groups formed, 1 in Dowa and 4 in Mchinji
- 80 fish ponds constructed and/or maintained
- 110,000 fingerlings distributed and stocked
- Farmers empowered with equipments and loans i.e. Fingerlings, Feed, Pond construction materials etc.
- The farmers equipped with knowledge in pond construction, pond management, record keeping, credit and loan management and group dynamics.
- Farmers realised an average yield of 1663 kg/ha/yr from the first harvest which is double the current productivity of 750 kg/ha/year.
- Urban fish markets identified
- Fish farmers have sold their fish and have realized an average gross income of MK73231 per person (about US$ 481, at exchange rate of 1 US$=MK152).

Expected Impact
- Livelihoods of community members improved.
- The curriculum of Bunda College improved through experiential learning.
- Capacity at Bunda College enhanced
- Project Management skills of staff, partners and students improved.

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