

Samaki Ziwa Victoria chupuchupu

DAR ES SALAAM

NA ALEX KAZENGA

Kama Wizara ya Mifugo na Uvuvi isingeshituka mapema na kuchukua hatua za haraka kuimarisha ulinzi na usimamizi wa shughuli za uvivu katika Ziwa Victoria, samaki walikuwa hatarini kumalizwa na ziwa kubaki maji matupu, Gazeti la JAMHURI linaripoti.

Ile fahari ya watu wa Kanda ya Ziwa kujivunia kitoweo cha samaki aina ya sangara na sato ingebaki kuwa simulizi lakini hali ni tofauti sasa, ulinzi na msako mkali wa kuwabaini wavuvi haramu na zana zao vimechukua mkondo wake ili ziwa libaki salama.

Upungufu wa samaki katika ziwa hilo umebainika hivi karibuni baada ya Taasisi ya Uvuvi ya Ziwa Victoria (LVFO) kwa kushirikiana na nchi za Kenya na Uganda kufanya utafiti wa kisayansi ili kujua wingi wa samaki waliomo ziwani kwa sasa.

"Ziwa Victoria linakabiliwa na upungufu wa kiwango cha samaki kwa asilimia 51, tumeimarisha ulinzi na usimamizi wa shughuli za uvuvi kuokoa samaki waliosalia," amesema Katibu Mkuu wa Wizara ya Mifugo na Uvuvi (Sekta ya Uvuvi), Dk. Rashid Tamatamah, alipozungumza hivi karibuni.

Amesema kutokana na utafiti huo, serikali imeongeza juhudi na mbinu za kudhibiti vitendo vya uvuvi haramu ambavyo kwa kiasi kikubwa vinatajwa kuwa visababishi.

"Tumenunua boti 16 za doria kuimarisha ulinzi katika vituo vya ulinzi wa rasilimali za uvuvi, pia wizara imewaagiza maofisa wafawidhi wa uvuvi kote nchini kudhibiti biashara ya samaki wachanga," amesema.

Kuhusu biashara ya samaki wachanga na vitendo vya wavuvi kutumia njia za uvuvi haramu, amesema vimeibuka kutokana na kukua kwa mahitaji ya soko la ndani pamoja na ushindani mkubwa uliopo katika malighafi hiyo viwandani, hali inayosababisha nguvu ya uvuvi kuwa kubwa ziwani.

Kabla serikali haijachukua uamuzi wa kuimarisha ulinzi na usimamizi wa shughuli za uvuvi katika ziwa hilo, wavuvi haramu katika mialo ya Sengerema, visiwa vya Ukerewe, Musoma, Geita na Mleba pamoja na visiwa vyake waliripotiwa kutumia nyavu haramu kwa wingi hasa zile aina ya

kokoro, timba na zile zisizooza, maarufu 'malumalu' kuvua samaki hadi kwenye mazalia yao.

Pia wavuvi wa dagaa nao waliripotiwa kutumia mitego ya dagaa na sola zenye mwanga mkali kuwaua hasa sangara na sato kwa wakati mmoja na hali hiyo imetajwa kuwa chanzo kikubwa cha kukamatwa kwa samaki wachanga na kuuzwa kwa wingi katika masoko ya Katoro, Runzwe, Geita, Kahama, Sengerema na mengine yaliyopo Mwanza. Kwa sasa baadhi ya mashuhuda wanasema msako wa wavuvi haramu na ukamataji wa zana haramu unaoendelea katika ziwa hilo, umesababisha samaki wachanga kuanza kupungua katika masoko hayo huku wakishauri msako ufanyike kwa miezi sita mfululizo au mwaka mzima ili kuruhusu samaki wazaliane kwa wingi.

Katika hatua nyingine, Dk. Tamatamah, amesema pamoja na kuendesha operesheni ya kuzikamata nyavu haramu pia wameanzisha vituo vya ulinzi vyenye lengo la kudhibiti utoroshwaji wa rasilimali za uvuvi kwenye mipaka ikiwa ni pamoja na kuanzisha vituo vya ukaguzi wa zana za uvuvi. "Tunashirikiana na vyombo vya ulinzi na usalama na tumeanzisha utaratibu wa kupata taarifa kutoka kwa raia wema," amesema.

Hata hivyo, amesema uingizwaji wa zana haramu kwa njia ya mipaka ya majini imekuwa na changamoto kuzidhibiti huku akidai hali hiyo



Katibu Mkuu wa Sekta ya Uvuvi, Dk. Rashid Tamatamah.

inasababisha na eneo la usimamizi kuwa kubwa.

Ametaja LVFO kuwa imekuwa ikiendesha operesheni za kudhibiti uvuvi haramu katika ziwa hilo huku akizitaja operesheni sangara ya mwaka 2018 na 2019 kwamba zilisaidia kukamatwa na kuteketezwa kwa nyavu nyingi zilizotumiwa kwenye uvuvi haramu.

"Tutazidi kufanya hizi operesheni mara kwa mara kadiri itakavyowezekana, pia kuimarisha usimamizi shirikishi na kutoa elimu kwa wavuvi na wadau wengine muhimu.

"Tutaongeza elimu inayotolewa kuhusu uvunaji mzuri wa rasilimali za uvuvi kwa uvuvi endelevu kwa manufaa ya wavuvi wenyewe na taifa kwa ujumla," amesema.

Vilevile amesema kwa kuzingatia sera ya uvuvi ya mwaka 2015, wizara imeanzisha vikundi vya Usimamizi shirikishi wa rasilimali za Uvuvi (BMUs) 784 nchi nzima.

Katika idadi hiyo, amesema ziwa hilo peke yake limepangiwa vikundi 433, likifuatiwa na maeneo mengine kama Bahari ya Hindi yenye vikundi 173, Ziwa Tanganyika vikundi 72, Ziwa Nyasa vikundi 29 na Ziwa Rukwa vikundi 12.

Maeneo mengine yenye vikundi

vya usimamizi idadi yake ikiwa katika mabano ni Nyumba ya Mungu (20), Bwawa la Mtera (29), Ziwa Kitangiri (1), Mto Ruhuhu (11) na Mto Kilombero (4).

Pamoja na kuwapo kwa vikundi hivyo katika maeneo hayo, amesema wavuvi wanatakiwa kutozibadilisha zana halali kuwa zana haramu (modification) na kujiepusha kutumia njia za kificho kuingiza zana haramu nchini.

"Nyavu zote haramu zinazosadikiwa kutumiwa na wavuvi haramu zinaingizwa nchini kwa kificho, kupitia ofisi za ulinzi za kanda njia hizo tutazibaini na wahusika tutawachukulia hatua," amesema.

Aidha, amekiri kuwapo baadhi ya viwanda vya kuchakata minofu ya samaki katika Kanda ya Ziwa vilivyofungwa na kuvitaja kuwa ni Prime Catch (Exporter) Ltd kilichoko Musoma kilichofungwa mwaka 2016, Vicfish Ltd na Tanperch Ltd vilivyoko Mwanza vimefungwa mwaka 2017.

Amesema kufungwa kwa viwanda hivyo hakujatokana na uhaba wa malighafi ya samaki uliovikabili bali ni changamoto za usimamizi.

Katika hatua nyingine, amevitaja viwanda vinavyofanya kazi kwa sasa kuwa ni Kagera Fish Company Ltd, Supreme Perch Ltd zamani kilijulikana kwa jina la Vicfish Ltd-Bukoba, Pesca Perch Ltd kilichopo Magu na Delish Food Ltd cha Nyamagana, Mwanza.

"Watu wanasema viwanda hivi vinazalisha kwa uwezo wa chini, hili naweza kusema kuwa limetokana na sababu mbalimbali ukiwamo ushindani mkubwa wa malighafi na kukua kwa soko la ndani, hicho ndicho kinasababisha malighafi kupungua kwenye viwanda hivyo," amesema.

Kuhusu kusimamia rasilimali za uvuvi nchini, amesema wizara inashirikiana na wadau mbalimbali yakiwamo mashirika yasiyo ya serikali na mashirika ya kimataifa kama Shirika la Chakula na Kilimo Duniani (FAO), Shirika la Worldwilde, Shirika la Seasense na Mfuko wa Kuhifadhi Mazingira Duniani (Worldwide Fund for Nature-WWF).



Mitumbwi ya kuvulia samaki.

MAONI & U

Nukuu



"Baada ya kupanda mlima mkubwa, milima mingine mingi ya kupanda."

Nelson Mandela (Rais wa kwanza mzaleni)

MWANANCHI UK 10

* Migogoro ya wakulima, wafugaji imetushinda? *

Kwa mara nyingine umeibuka mgogoro kati ya wakulima na wafugaji katika Wilaya Siha mkoani Kilimanjaro. Katika mgogoro huu mpya imeelezwa kuwa watu tisa wamejeruhiwa kwa kukatwa mapanga.

Mgogoro huu unahusisha wakulima katika eneo la West Kilimanjaro ambako makundi ya vijana wa kimasai kutoka Wilaya ya Longido mkoani Arusha wanadaiwa kuingiza mifugo kwenye mashamba na kuharibu zaidi ya ekari 1,800 za ngano na maharage.

Kufuatia hali hiyo, katika kukabiliana na vijana hao, watu hao wamejeruhi kwa mapanga na Mkuu wa Mkoa wa Kilimanjaro, Stephen Kagaigai ameliagiza Jeshi la Polisi kuhakikisha linawadhibiti wafugaji.

Hili siala jipya hapa nchini, migogoro ya namna hii imekuwa ikitokea katika maeneo mbalimbali ya nchi, hasa maeneo ambayo yanahusisha wakulima na wafugaji, hasa kutokana na kutokuwepo mgawanyo sawia wa ardhi.

Ni jambo la wazi kwamba ardhi iliyoumbwa na Mwenyezi Mungu inabaki ileile wakati matumizi yake yanazidi kuongezeka kila kukicha - idadi ya wakulima inaongezeka vilevile idadi ya wafugaji na idadi ya mifugo inazidi kuongezeka pia.

Na pia kwa siku za karibuni matumizi ya ardhi kwa ajili ya kilimo yameongezeka na maeneo mengi yaliyokuwa yanatumika kwa malisho hapo awali yanageuka mashamba; si hivyo tu hata wafugaji nao wanashindwa kudhibiti wingi wa mifugo yao kwa kufanya ufugaji wa kibiashara na hivyo kuwepo msugano usioisha baina ya makundi hayo.

Kutokana na hali hiyo nchi yetu imeendelea kukabiliwa na migogoro baina ya wakulima na wafugaji na jitihada za Serikali kuitatua bado hazijazaa matunda.

Kuna kipindi uongozi wa Mkoa wa Morogoro ulisema chanzo cha migogoro hiyo

mkoani humo ni uwepo mifugo mingi kupita uwezo wa eneo la malisho.

Wakati eneo la malisho ni ekari 370,000 ambalo linapaswa kuwa na ng'ombe 185,000 lakini wakati huo mwaka 2017 mkoa mzima ulikuwa na ng'ombe milioni 1.2, hali iliyoaminika kusababisha vurugu za mara kwa mara.

Tatizo hilo haliko Morogoro wa Kilimanjaro pekee, kama tulivyosema hapo juu ni maeneo yote nchini yenye wafugaji na wakulima. Wafugaji wengi tulionao bado wanafurahia kujifaharisha kuwa na ng'ombe wengi na wanachojali ni mifugo yao ipate malisho bila kujali kwamba wanaharibu mazao ya wakulima.

Ufugaji wa aina hiyo katika zama hizi unajulikana kama ni wa kiholela ambao mbali na kusababisha migogoro ya kila mara pamoja na uharibifu wa mazingira.

Tunadhani ili ukuzaji wa sekta ya kilimo na mifugo uweze kuchangia ipasavyo katika pato la Taifa na wafugaji wenyewe, usiwe wa matamko ya kisiasa tu, wahusika waisimamie vyema sekta hii.

Ushauri wanaopewa wafugaji wa kupunguza mifugo waliyonayo pamoja na uzuri wake, lakini hautekelezeki bila elimu na uwezesaji kutosha, ili wafikie hatua wakubaliane kuwa na mifugo michache yenye faida kwao na kwa mazingira.

Wafugaji waelimishwe kuhusu ufugaji wa kisasa ambao ni kuwa na ng'ombe wachache walio bora na wenye masilahi zaidi.

Wakati hilo likiendelea, maeneo yote yenye vurugu kama tuliyoyataja, huu ni wakati wa kuyapima na kutenga sehemu za wakulima na wafugaji huku tukiendelea kuyasimamia, ili kuepusha migogoro mipya kuibuka.

Ikiwa haya yatafanyika, hatuoni sababu ya migogoro hii kuendelea kuwepo hapa nchini, vinginevyo tukubali kwamba kuna mahali hapako sawa.

MWANANCHI UK 28.

Majanga ya moto yanavyowatesa wavuvi Sengerema

Daniel Makaka, Mwananchi
mwananchipepars@mwananchi.co.tz

Buchosa. Matukio ya kambi za uvuvi wilayani Sengerema mkoa wa Mwanza kuteketea kwa moto yamegeuka kuwa jinamizi inayotafuna fedha na rasilimali za wavuvi kutokana na kutokea mara kwa mara.

Makambi ya uvuvi yanayokumbwa na majanga ya moto ni Kome mchangani, Bugombe, Kabisa, Zilagula, Kasarazi na Migogo.

Tukio la hivi karibuni ni lile la Julai 9 ambapo kambi ya uvuvi ya Migogo iliyoko ndani ya hifadhi ya kisiwa cha Maisome iliteteketea kwa moto na kuwaacha zaidi ya wakazi 3, 000 bila makazi huku mali ya mamilioni ya fedha ikiwemo bidhaa za uvuvi zikiteketea.

Aron Shukrani, mmoja wa wafanyabiasha katika kambi hiyo aliziomba mamlaka husika kuweka utaratibu wa ujenzi wa makazi unaoacha nafasi kati ya nyumba moja na nyingine ili kuepuka madhara makubwa janga la moto linapotokea.

Pia alishauri wataalamu wa zimamoto wawe na kituo kidogo katika makambi ya uvuvi kusaidia wakati majanga ya moto yanapotokea.

Wakala wa misitu Tanzania (TFS) kupitia mhi-fadhi mkuu misitu Wilaya ya Sengerema, James Aloyce alisema ili kuepuka majanga ya moto wana-pogawa maeneo kwa wavuvi kwa ajili ya kujenga nyumba zao huwapanga kimstari na kuachana nafasi, lakini jamii ya wavuvi hushindwa kuelewa na kujenga nyumba kiholela.

"Jamii ya wavuvi ifuate sheria zinazowaongoza ndani ya hifadhi, ili ziepuke majanga na moto. Moto unapotokea katika kambi husababisha madhara makubwa ya watu kupoteza maisha, mali na vitu vingine hivyo jamii inatakiwa kuwa makini," alisema Aloyce.

Mkuu wa Wilaya ya Sengerema, Senyi Ngaga alithibitisha kutokea kwa tukio hilo na hakuna madhara kwa binadamu huku vyombo vya ulinzi na usalama vikipiga kambi kuchunguza chanzo cha moto huo kutokea.

TU
Rai
Sul
aki
kut
ya
Mk
wa
wa
ya
Lin
kw
mo
bil
wa
wa
wa
wa
ho
wa
ya
wa
m
wi
es
M

F

"S
ya
ita
ku
ya
ya
an
vij
uli
ku
ka
ali

Ni
Ma
Kil

zi wa miundombinu

ar WB yaguswa uwekezaji sekta ya kilimo, mifugo

Na BENNY MWAIPAJA

a Mkoa
ondoni,
e katika
idala ya
ekee.
ana na
Mkoa wa
a ofisi ya
humu.
i ya sh.
nakubwa
ekelezwa
pato na
zitumike
endeleo,"

alikagua
o za Mto
ika eneo
nchi wa
hakikishe

inondoni
kujenga
sha mtu
nwingine

Majaliwa
wa soko
na ujenzi
ispaa ya

aziri wa
Majaliwa,
koa huo
ayafanyia

Salaam,
uru Rais
isha sh.
abati wa
za jamii



di

na ujenzi
na fedha.
jezaulole
ha Polisi
ambazo

pendelea
iba mosi,
nilika na
alisisitiza
utasaidia
ha ulinzi
ilivu kwa

BENKI ya Dunia (WB), imeipongeza Tanzania kwa kuwekeza kiasi kikubwa cha fedha katika maeneo ya uzalishaji kikiwemo kilimo, mifugo na uvuvi sekta ambazo zitachochea ukuaji wa kipato cha wananchi na kukuza uchumi wa nchi.

Pongezi hizo zilitolewa jijini Dar es Salaam na Makamu wa Rais wa Benki ya Dunia anayesimamia Kanda ya Kusini Mashariki, Victoria Kwakwa, alipokutana na kuzungumza na Waziri wa Fedha na Mipango, Dk. Mwigulu Nchemba.

Aliahidi benki hiyo na washirika wake watasaidia juhudi za serikali za kufanikisha mapinduzi katika sekta hizo muhimu kwa kutoa fedha na ushauri wa kitaalamu ili mpango huo wa kuendeleza kilimo, mifugo na uvuvi uwe na tija.

Victoria alisema ugonjwa wa Uviko-19 na vita inayoendelea kati ya Russia na Ukraine zimeibua changamoto kubwa ya uhaba wa mazao ya nafaka, hivyo alishauri Tanzania ijipange vizuri kwa kuwa na ghala la chakula kinachotosheleza na kutoagiza kutoka nje.



Sisi na washirika wetu tutasaidia juhudi za serikali za kufanikisha mapinduzi katika sekta hizo muhimu kwa kutoa fedha na ushauri wa kitaalamu."

Makamu wa Rais wa Benki ya Dunia, Victoria Kwakwa.

Kwa upande wake, Waziri wa Fedha na Mipango, Dk. Mwigulu alisema serikali imeamua kuwekeza fedha katika maeneo ya uzalishaji akitolea mfano wa ongezeko la bajeti ya kilimo kutoka sh. bilioni 200 hadi zaidi ya sh. bilioni 900 ili kuiwezesha sekta hiyo kukuza uchumi wa nchi na kuzalisha ajira.

Dk. Nchemba aliishukuru benki ya dunia kwa uwekezaji wa dola za Marekani bilioni 2.8 katika miradi 11 ya kimkakati iliyowasilishwa katika benki hiyo.

Alisema uwekezaji huo utaisaidia nchi kupambana na umasikini na ukuaji jumuishi wa maendeleo ya watu na kuahidi fedha zinazopatikana kutoka katika benki hiyo zinatumiwa ipasavyo ili kuleta matokeo yaliyokusudiwa.

Dk. Nchemba aliishukuru benki hiyo kwa kuiidhinishia Tanzania dola za Marekani bilioni 2.1 kwa ajili ya utekelezaji wa miradi mbalimbali ya maendeleo kupitia mpango mpya wa utoaji mikopo na misaada wa IDA 20 ulioanza kutekelezwa rasmi mwezi huu.

Aliiomba benki hiyo kuharakisha utoaji wa fedha zitakazowezesha utekelezaji wa miradi kupitia mpango huo wa miaka mitatu na serikali itashukuru endapo kiwango hicho cha pesa kitaongezwa ili miradi iliyopo sasa inayokadiriwa kugharimu dola za Marekani bilioni 4.9 ikamilike kwa wakati.

Kikao hicho kimehudhuriwa pia na Naibu Waziri wa Fedha na Mipango, Hamad Hassan Chande, Naibu Katibu Mkuu Wizara ya Fedha na Mipango, Amina Khamisi Shaaban, Kamishna wa Fedha za Nje wa Wizara ya Fedha na Mipango, Rished Mohamed Bade na viongozi wengine kutoka wizara hiyo na Wizara ya Mambo ya Nje na Ushirikiano wa Afrika Mashariki.

Ufugaji ng'ombe kisasa wapigiwa chapuo

MENEJA Masoko wa Kampuni za Ranchi za Taifa, Mnzava Emmanuel, ametoa ushauri kwa Watanzania wanaopen-da kuwekeza kwenye ufugaji wa kisasa wa ng'ombe wanaokuwa kwa muda mfupi na kibiashara ili kuviwezesha viwanda vinavyofanyakazi kwa kutegemea bidhaa hiyo kutokosa malighafi.

Alisema Tanzania imejenga machinjio mengi, lakini baadhi yake yanajiendesha chini ya uwezo kutokana na kutokuwa na malighafi nyingi mengi.

"Tunasisitiza ufugaji wa kisasa na wa kibiashara ambao miaka miwili tayari ng'ombe anakuwa ameshafika kilo 400 kwa ajili ya kupelekwa sokoni, na hicho ndicho tumekuja nacho Sabasaba kuwaambia Watanzania," alisema Emmanuel.

Alisema katika maonyesho hayo, wana mbegu ya ng'ombe aina ya Borani ambaye ukuaji wake ni wa muda mfupi ambayo wanasisitiza itumiwe na wafugaji na tayari wametoa ofa ya punguzo la bei kwa kipindi chote cha maonyesho hadi Julai 20, mwaka huu ili kusaidia Watanzania wengi kupata.

"Tuna machinjio ambayo yamejengwa nchini na yanaendelea kujengwa, yanaendeshwa chini ya uwezo wake wa kuchakata kwa sababu pamoja na kwa mifugo iko mingi, lakini viwanda bado vinakosa mifugo. Kwa hiyo tunataka wachukue mbegu hizi ili mifugo ikue ndani ya muda mfupi na waipeleke viwandani ili viweze kufanya kazi ya kuzalisha bila kukosa malighafi," alisema Emmanuel.

"Katika Sabasaba hii tumekuja na ofa kubwa ya ng'ombe dume aina ya Borani

kwa ajili ya Watanzania ambayo ni punguzo la asilimia 14 kutoka kwenye bei ya awali na imeanza tangu kipindi cha maonyesho haya na itadumu mpaka Julai 20, mwezi huu."

Tangu wametoa ofa hiyo, mwitikio wa wafugaji umekuwa mkubwa na wanaangalia namna ya kupeleka tena ofa hiyo katika maonyesho ya Nanenane ili kuwezesha wananchi wengi kupata mbegu ya ng'ombe hao.

"Wananchi wengi wenye makundi ya mifugo, wamekuwa wakipiga simu na tunawapa control namba wanaenda kwenye ranchi, wanalipa fedha na wanachukua madume yao kwenda kwenye mikoa mbalimbali nchini kwa ajili ya kwenda ku upgrade kwenye majike yao,"

"Na uki upgrade kwenye majike ya asili, matokeo yake ni kwamba utapata machotara wa ng'ombe wanaokua kwa haraka na kwa muda mfupi, tayari kwa kupelekwa sokoni."

Vilevile, wana fursa za uwekezaji wa kimkakati wa viwanda vya kuchinja ng'ombe, kuchakata nyama, maziwa, malisho, ngozi, mazao ya ngozi ikiwamo mikanda, makoti na mabegi.

"Kama yupo Mtanzania ambaye anafikiri anaweza kuwekeza kimkakati na uwekezaji wake ukaleta matokeo na faida kwa wananchi wengi, maeneo ya kuwekeza kwenye viwanda hivyo kwenye mnyororo mzima wa thamani yanapatikana kwenye ranchi zetu za taifa ambazo kwa ujumla ziko 14 na karibu katika kila kanda kuna ranchi moja au mbili," alisema Emmanuel.



Walkabout announces the start of graphite mining in Tanzania
Page14



Digital Marketing; Brand Safety: Part 3
Page14



Safaricom makes billions in profit from M-Pesa unit
Page15

Unlocked potential of fresh water fish farming in Tanzanians

By Correspondent James Kandaya

TANZANIA's aquaculture sector offers vast potential for growth. Its climate is ideal for fish farming and the demand for fish is rapidly rising due to population growth.

It is dominated by freshwater fish farming in which small-scale farmers practice both extensive and semi-intensive modes.

Currently, it is estimated that a total of 14,100 freshwater fishponds are scattered across Tanzania mainland. However, despite the increased demands for fish, the sector has not yet unlocked to its full potential.

This is driving up fish prices, making fish less affordable for the lower- and middle-income segments of the population. Tanzania has a deficit of 480,000 tons of fish demands per annum.

According to the Inception Study Aquaculture Sector Tanzania conducted by Larive international and Lattice Aqua, improving the country's aquaculture sector requires a holistic approach, focused on increased domestic productivity in an environmentally and socially responsible way.

Furthermore, the demand deficit will also drive up fish market prices and make fish farming a more lucrative business for Tanzanians.

The study commissioned by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Tanzania aimed at identifying commercial freshwater aquaculture development targets of the Tanzanian government which are not or insufficiently met by existing development initiatives and programs.

The report recommends that the enabling environment can be upgraded by creating conducive regulatory framework, market oriented educational institutes and an established private sector organization.



Aquaculture has strong domestic consumption trends, and was the most commonly farmed fish in Tanzania and East Africa PHOTO/FILE

Also, positive initiatives such as the development of a dedicated aquaculture law and investments in education and research were observed and provide confidence in a continued commitment by Tanzanian public stakeholders.

Besides that, several specific interventions are recommended to address the most pressing development opportunities which were identified by this study. Practically, all value chain actors can play an important role in realizing these recommendations and hence become drivers for growth and positive change.

Jerry Mangena, the director and co-founder of Aqua-Farms Organization in Coast Region is among young Tanzanians who own commercial ponds.

In his view, aqua-farms business is not a quick or fast moving business like any other business because it takes more time. For instance, one tilapia fish takes 6 to 8 months to reach 350 to 500 grams.

"Shortage of fingerlings is one of the major challenges we are currently facing in the country," he said.

Mangena says the target is to produce two million fingerlings annually by 2025, where the demand will be reached by 7 percent.

Tanzanian hatcheries have insufficient access to quality tilapia and catfish brood stock, as well as lack of expertise to develop their own brood stock improvement programs.

"In order to solve this issue, it requires a long-

term improvement program of the tilapia and catfish gene pools in which the quality is controlled," he noted.

He mentions other challenges facing the sector such as the existing knowledge gap within the sector and lack of practical skills, poor access to affordable quality fish feed and seed.

Others are inadequate sector coordination and market linkages and the challenging business environment due to imported fish, tax regimes, high cost of inputs and aquaculture policy.

Mangena further noted that most of the foods are imported from the Netherlands which are very expensive. The aquaculture farms are both in need of investment capital as well as working capital, the latter being sometimes half of the total required capital but often overlooked by farmers.

Importing aquaculture farm equipment, such as tanks and water treatment systems, should be exempted from import duties and attract VAT.

Currently, there are several financial institutions with a focus on the agricultural sector in the country, for example, the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank Limited.

Although no specific aquaculture financial products or services exist, the general agricultural finance instruments are also available to the aquaculture sector.

However, financial institutions have not yet provided much capital to the aquaculture sector. The main reason is the lack of established and profitable fish farmers in the country.

Tanzania is currently mainly relying on inland fisheries from Lake Victoria (85 percent) and marine fisheries (14 percent) for

its fish consumption.

Only around 1 percent or 3,942 tones is produced by aquaculture.

However, its domestic market for tilapia is estimated to reach \$380 million by 2030, where 64 percent of which remains obtainable to new aquaculture production.

According to the report on Aquaculture Investment Opportunities, phase II (2018), conducted by the Darberg - the strategy and policy advisory firm in the country under the sponsorship of USAID, the initial review suggests freshwater tilapia farming has the highest potential.

The report entitled "Market Analysis and Value Chain Prioritization in the Livestock & Fisheries Sector in Tanzania" screened 18 sub-sectors to appraise commercial and social potential of which aquaculture was selected as a main priority based on commercial viability.

The report reveals that aquaculture has strong domestic consumption trends, and was the most commonly farmed fish in Tanzania and East Africa.

"To unlock this potential, commercial aquaculture operation will need to be introduced at scale; options exist for cage, pond and re-circulation systems," it suggested.

Tanzania will require up to 69 million tons of additional tilapia production, the supply could be either fresh or frozen. The report however notes that despite the clear opportunities for local fish productions, the sector has not yet unlocked its full potential.

Currently, the potential opportunity is underpinned by strong domestic demand growth, constrained conventional supply, surmountable competition and strong regional precedents of technology application

Rice in demand for exports pushes wholesale feed prices up

Nations COMTRADE database, an international trade