

Fish Cultivation in Rice Field

in Xiengkhouang Province

Fish cultivation in rice fields is a local practice of farmers in Xiengkouang Province. Fish in rice fields is an important source of fish as well as rice. Fish also play a role in controlling pest insects in rice as well as weeds. This improves the quality and quantity of rice and increases overall profitability from rice cultivation.

Management Practices

- Rice field dikes are raised 50-80 cm to maintain at least 25-20 cm water
- pH of the water is maintained at 6.5-7.5
- Construction of pits measuring one meter deep and 50-80 cm in diameter covering up to 10% of the land
- A drainage system is constructed for easy harvesting of fish
- 200-300 fingerlings are released per rai of land

Production

- Tilapia and Common Carp are stocked in the rice field and local fish naturally populate the field including catfish, snakehead, small fish species, eels, shrimp, snails and other species
- Farmers cultivate fish in rice fields in every district but is supported mainly in Phaxai, Kham and Koun Districts.
- In the key districts, the government supports 69 households in 10 villages
- Government also distributed fish fingerlings to 361 households in 3 districts
- In the average year, farms received 3,563 kg from 27.6 hectares

Marketing

- The value of fish from rice fields is approximately 106, 890,000 Kip/year
- Farmers typically sell their fish in the market and to middlemen
- Consumers typically purchase fish at a price of 30,000 Kip per kg

Opportunities

- Expand the practices to other villages to increase the quantity of fish produced
- Expand the areas of rice fields where fish cultivation is practiced
- Improve the quality of the fish seed for cultivating in rice fields
- Link fish cultivation in rice fields to programs supporting nutrition

