Economic Analysis of Small-scale Aquaculture Enterprise in Ghana; a case study of Sunyani Municipality

8 10 11 **ABSTRACT**

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Aims: This study analyses the economic performance and gender distribution of the smallscale aquaculture of Ghana using Net Present Value (NPV), Internal Rate of Return (IRR), Cash flow as well as gender distribution of the small-scale aquaculture of Ghana.

Study design: This study is exploratory in its design. The study identified certain relationships and associations. Data was gathered from a sample drawn from a population. Questionnaire-based interview was designed and administered to the small scale fish farmers in the Sunyani metropolis. Both quantitative and qualitative research methods will be employed for the study. A case study method will also be used due to the fact that it has the benefit of permitting for an intensive collection of data required to fulfil the goals of the research

Place and Duration of Study: The study was conducted at the Sunyani Municipality in the Brong Ahafo Region of the Republic of Ghana between November 2017 and February 2018.

Methodology: The study randomly selected 20 farms out 40 farms and farmers interviewed using questionnaire. A 600 m2 pond was further selected as a model of the small-scale aquaculture and used to perform the economic analysis.

Results: The total start-up capital for a 600-meter square pond is estimated at GH¢ 12, 119.19. Huge part, 56.9 percent, of the amount goes into fixed investment like pond construction, acquisition of land, and farm buildings. The economic analysis shows a viable industry with an estimated NPV of GH¢2,724.52 and IRR of 24.19 percent.

With gender, the study reveals a huge gap in man-woman distribution in the fish farming trade. Majority of the farms surveyed did not females, with the male having 77 against the female with 23%.

Conclusion: The study has found a viable aquaculture industry with high profitability that can improve the livelihood of fish farming households.

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Keywords: Small-scale, Investment cost, operational cost, aquaculture, profitability, gender.

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18 **1. INTRODUCTION**

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Fish is a major component of the human diet. Fish account for up to 20 % of the average per-capita intake of animal protein (FAO, 2014). The usage of fish has increased dramatically due to improved technology, which showcases powerful engines and sonar equipment and led to over fishing, causing a worldwide decrease in wild stock accounting for the decline in the fish population dynamics (FAO, 2005). There is therefore an argent need to increase fish production by fish farming.

Aquaculture can be seen as an aspect of agricultural practices, mainly to increase the production of food above the level that was produced naturally. Today, aquaculture is responsible for an ever-increasing share of global aquatic food production, and accounted for 65% of the increase in fish production in the period 2005–2014. (FAO 2016).

30 The fisheries resources of Ghana supply 45% of natural animal protein to the people. 31 (MoFAD,2016). Most fish farmers in Ghana use earthen ponds and rely on natural 32 productivity to feed fish, while others supplement feed with agricultural by-products (FAO 2006). The most cultivated species in the country is Oreochromis niloticus (Nile tilapia). 33 34 Generally, due to health complications associated with consumption of meat, the 35 consumption of aquaculture products is on the increase (Asiedu et al., 2015; FAO, 2016). 36 Moreover, Aquaculture is one of the fastest growing animal foods producing sectors offering 37 employment and food security to the ever-increasing human populace in Ghana (Asiedu et al., 2017). Furthermore, fish have been found to have self-life which is readily enhanced 38 39 through low-cost sustainable technologies such as smoking, drying and salting (FAO, 2000; 2009). On the other hand, fish is good in terms of gross body weight gain and protein gain 40 41 per unit of feed intake (Hastings and Dickie, 1972).

Fish farming in Ghana is a profitable venture and it is rapidly expanding and it will continue to be profitable if the planning and management are well taken care of. Fish farming is geared towards the improvement of nutritional standards of the people and to create selfemployment opportunities for Ghanaian communities. Secondly, fish farming has become more appropriate to developing countries because of the opportunities for waste recycling and integration with crops and animal farming (Pillay, 1990).

Before starting any activity all likely costs involved in that activity should be taken into consideration. With aquaculture it is important that important technical factors such as water availability throughout the year, quality of water, availability of raw material (fingerlings, feed, etc.) and size of likely market must be taken into consideration as well as the cost and supply of labour and the selling price of the final product.

The purpose of every business venture is to generate profits. An enterprise budget is used to examine whether any business is profitable or not. If the total farm revenues from sales generated for the period are greater than the costs, it means profits are generated for that given period (Nandlal and Pickering 2004).

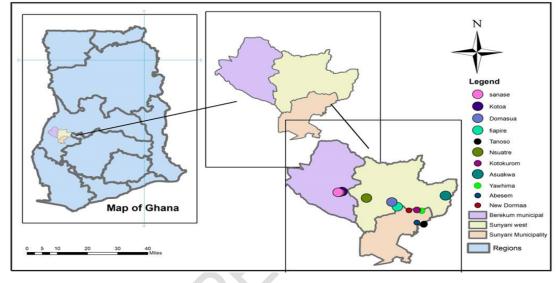
57 Further studies on aquaculture viability in Sunyani municipality are needed in order to 58 improve the standard of living for people in the area and to help farmers in executing a 59 successful trade. It is an expectation that development of a knowledge base to help the 60 small-scale fish farmers to better understand their business in order to make a significant 61 profit will take place in a short while. This research will contribute to literature and serve as a 62 platform to build upon for future studies. It will also aid small scale fish farmers to know more 63 about aquaculture to improve their economic standards.

65 2. MATERIAL AND METHODS / EXPERIMENTAL DETAILS / METHODOLOGY

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68 **2.1 Study site:**

Sunyani is a city in the West African republic of Ghana, and is the capital of the Brong-Ahafo Region. The Municipality covers a total area of 29.3 square kilometers. One third of the total land area is not inhabited or cultivated which provides arable lands for future investment. The Municipality as selected because it has majority of fish farms in the region. Nearly onehalf of the region's annual aquaculture production in 2010 was from the Sunyani Municipality. The study area and farms visited are presented Figure 1 below.



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77 **2.2 Sampling:**

Random sampling was adopted in this study. Simple random sampling technique was employed to select farmers for administering questionnaire. Farm list of the study site was obtained from the Fisheries Commission, and farms assigned with numbers from 1-40. Twenty farmers were interviewed. For profitability analysis 600 m2 pond was used as the basis for analysis because this is the average size used by most fish farmers in the municipality.

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85 2.3 Data analysis:

Bata collected was entered into Microsoft Excel (version 2016) and analysed using the descriptive statistic feature to generate tables. Economic analysis was done by using calculating Net Present Value, Internal Rate of Return, Present Value, Net Profit, and production cost, value of harvested stock and market price per unit weight in kilogram using Ms. Excel formulas. Results are presented in tables and bar charts. Gender distribution data was coded and entered, and the percentage of occurrence calculated and chatted with pie chat.

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94 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- 9596 3.1 Investment Cost
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In the present case study, the building costs were divided into pond construction, fencing and house constructing. The total value of buildings in the present case study, including contingency, was estimated to be about GH¢ 6,902. Regarding equipment needed in the operation such as a pump, vehicle, containers, refrigerator, scales and others, the total value was calculated as GH¢ 4,817.19. The value for other investment costs incurred was about GH¢ 400. The total investment in the farm was GH¢ 12,119.19.

Investment Cost	t (GHS)				
Equipment	Quantity	Cost	Building		
Pump	1	900	Item	Quantity	Cost
Net	1	1200	Pond	1	1800
Container	2	400	Fence		0
Refrigerator	1	1900	House	1	5000
PVC pipes	4	50	Sub-total		6800
Wheel barrow	2	140	Contingency	1.50%	102
Hoes		0	Total	6, 902	
Cutlass	2	35			
Scale	2	75			
Test kit		0	Others	Quantity	Value
Shovel	2	46	land		400
Sub-total		4, 746	Water		0
Contingency	1.50%	71.19	Total	400	
Total	4, 817.19		Total investment	12, 119.19	

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Table 1: Estimation of Investment cost

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106 *Estimation of investment cost for a 600m² pond *

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108 Investment cost, coupled with subsequent cash flows, is an essential element to determining 109 the value of a project. This study modelled the establishment and operation of 600m2 fish 110 pond using fish farmers' information as a base data. Investment cost in this study refers to 111 the cost of building, equipment and other investments.

112 In the case study the total value of buildings in the present case study, including contingency, was estimated to be about GH¢ 6,902.00. Regarding equipment needed in the 113 114 operation such as a pump, vehicle, containers, refrigerator, scales and others, the total value was calculated as GH¢ 4.817.19. The value for other investment costs obtained was GH¢ 115 400.00. The total investment in the farm was GH¢ 12,119.19. Out of the start-up cost more 116 than half (56.1%) goes into the fixed cost which involves the cost of land, pond construction 117 118 and buildings. This shows that high level of investment capital needed as start-up in an 119 aquaculture business usually stems from the high level of the fixed costs. This is in line with 120 Engle, (2010) findings where she found that, the high level of investment capital needed as 121 start-up in an aquaculture business usually stems from the high level of the fixed investment 122 costs.

123 The study shows that like many business investments, aquaculture is a highly capital-124 intensive business. 125 The aquaculture enterprise is capital intensive, characterized with high cost start-up and 126 small-scale fish farmers may require access to funds (Adal 2008). Such huge investment 127 cost affects small-scale aquaculture through perceivably low initial returns. This is 128 inconsistent to the findings of Taabeah et al (2010) who investigated on the constraints of cage culture in Ghana, in which lack of access to funds had the highest mean rankings 129 among the challenges presented. According Nunoo et al., 2012, small-scale fish farmers 130 131 lack capital to expand and thus, their low investment costs have resulted in low profitability. 132 Farm investment analysis, in contrast, is undertaken to determine the attractiveness of a 133 proposed investment to farmers and to other participants, including the society as a whole.

134 **3.2 Operating cost**

135 Cost of Operation were classified as variable and fixed costs (Table 2). Variable costs 136 include cost of fingerlings, feed, fertilizer, transportation, weeding, machine repairs, erosion 137 checks, harvesting cost, and electricity. The fixed costs considered include the payment of 138 salary, because employees are permanent in the farm.

Variable items	Quantity	Cost		Fixed items	Quantity	Cost/cycle
Fingerlings	2400	480		Employee	1	600
Feed	24 bags	1632		Security	1	240
Transport		500		Total	840	•
Weeding	1	40				
Erosion check	1	30		r		
Machine repair	1	25				
Electricity		50	1			
Harvesting cost	5	100	1			
Miscellaneous		10	1			
Total	2, 867			Total out flow	3, 707	

139 Table 2: Estimation of Operating cost.

140 *Estimation of operatingt cost for a 600m² pond *

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Operating cost refers to the cost incurred after farm establishment (equipment and 142 143 building) for the production of farm produce. The operating cost is made of two cost components; variable cost and fixed cost. Yearly fixed cost component includes 144 145 security and salary. The total value of fixed cost is estimated to be GH¢240.00 per production cycle. These components remain fixed throughout the production period. 146 Variable cost components are composed of items which market prices can change 147 148 during the production period. These include feed, fingerlings, weed control, repairs, harvesting costs, and erosion. 149

The variable costs constituted 55.2% compared to the total start-up cost and this is very close to the range of 33.5% to 55% obtained by Asmah (2008) for commercial operators in the country. This rate, compared to what was obtained by Asmah (2008), is also not surprising looking at the current steps taken to reduce the operational costs in the form of availability of inputs such as fingerlings at reduced
 or subsidized cost. It is however very important to note that the variable costs can
 vary depending on the scale and the level of production that one wants to engage

157 in. Feed is an essential commodity needed in aquaculture operations and the

efficiency with which it is utilized for growth depends on its quality and its utilization.In

160 Ghana good quality feed is a major constraint faced by many operators. Since the 161 country has

162 very few producers (example Rannan West Africa Company Limited), majority of the feed used in the country is imported from countries such as Brazil. Netherlands and 163 Israel, resulting in the high cost of feed as seen in this study. Asiedu et al, (2017) 164 165 shows the main reason for pond abandonment in the Sunyani Municipality is high cost of feed. This is also consistent to Rungwa et al (2015) and Hiheglo (2008) who 166 suggested that high cost of commercial feed is a major constraint to aquaculture in 167 Ghana. In order to obtain bigger sizes of fish, good quality feed with a high feed 168 conversion ratio is needed. Good quality feed may cost more than what was 169 assumed in this study. Increasing the cost of feed by 30% and above will lead to the 170 171 enterprise making losses. According to Hiheglo (2010), availability guality and affordable fish feed will speed the development of the Ghanaian aquaculture sector. 172

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174 **3.3 Estimation of Profitability**

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3.3.1. Net Present Value (NPV) and Internal Rate of Return (IRR) –

In Table 3, the net Cash Flow (CF) at year 0 is negative with a negative PV. This because an initial investment (cash outflow) and a zero (0) production (no cash inflow). The PVs are positive for the net cash flows for year 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. The NPV obtained at a DR of 15% capital is GH¢2, 724.518. This implies that the fish farming enterprise is highly profitable even at a Minimum Attractive Rate of Return (MARR).

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184 Table 3: computation of NPV and IRR

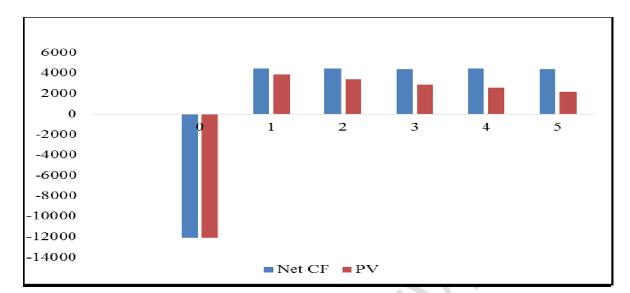
Year (t)	Net CF	PV	DR (K)	(1+K)^t	NPV
			15%*		$\sum_{t=0}^n \frac{CF_t}{(1+k)^t}$
0	-12119.19	-12119.19	DR=	1	
1	4466	3883.4783	discounting	1.15	
2	4466	3376.9376	rate.	1.3225	
3	4356	2864.1407		1.520875	2,724.518
4	4466	2553.449995		1.749006	
5	4356	2165.701859		2.011357	
Total	9990.81	2, 724.52			
IRR	24.18	8503%	Q		

Note: 15* is the Minimum Attractive Rate of Return (MARR), interest rate with minimum profit
to the investor.

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190 <u>3.3.2. Net Cash Flow and Present Value</u>: The results from Figure 2 below indicate a negative net cash flow and present value at year zero (0). This is attributable to the initial investment and in part, a zero production in the setup year (0). Observably, both the net cash flow and present value are both positive in the subsequent years. The net cash flows comparable appear stable whilst present value decline along the years as indicated in Figure 2.

- 196 Figure 2: A graph of Net CF and Net PV
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200 Increasing profitability is one of the most important drivers of business managers who 201 continually look for ways to change the business to attain this objective (Engle and Neira 202 2005). Profitability is the primary goal of all business ventures. Without profit, the business 203 will not survive in the long-run. So, measuring current and past profitability and projecting 204 future profitability is very important (Hofstrand 2006). The profitability was developed based 205 on the results of the 600 m2 pond production model. Performance indicators used to assess 206 profitability include gross revenue, net revenue, total investment, average price, net cash flows, net present value, and internal rate of returns 207

208 The study found that, investing in aquaculture business in Ghana is a profitable venture and 209 feasible. The NPV was determined using the minimum rate of return (MARR) as a discount 210 rate (DR). Net Present Value (NPV) is a financial function that is calculated for an 211 investment, and it represents the present value of an investment minus the amount of money 212 it cost to buy-in. NPV realistically predicts future cash flows by discounting future cash flows 213 using the projects appropriate discount rate (DR), called opportunity cost. Simply put, NPV is equal to "Present Value (PV) of cash inflows" minus "Present Value of cash outflows". It can 214 215 be seen in Table 3, the net Cash Flow (CF) at year 0 is negative with a negative PV. This 216 because an initial investment (cash outflow) and a zero (0) production (no cash inflow). The PVs are positive for the net cash flows for year 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. The NPV obtained at a DR 217 218 of 15% capital is GH¢2, 724.518. This implies that the fish farming enterprise is highly 219 profitable even at a Minimum Attractive Rate of Return (MARR). The calculated NPV and 220 IRR values are much higher than zero which indicates that the investment is potentially highly profitable, that is given that the assumptions which the estimates were based on are 221 222 fairly accurate. The payback period of 5 years obtained in this study is within the10-year 223 period considered for this operation as well as four to five years recommended by Engle 224 (2010) for commercial operations in aquaculture to payback after investment. This is 225 however not surprising looking at the short production cycle (7 month) for tilapia as 226 compared to other species such as salmon culture with production cycle of more than a year 227 (Bjorndal, 1990). Most investors find projects with short payback periods more economically 228 attractive, especially in markets that are lacking in credit facilities. An aquaculture business 229 which takes 10 or more years to payback the cost of investment is considered to be 230 unprofitable (Atrill, 2003). Hence this could serve as an encouragement to investors who 231 normally would prefer a short-term investment as a measure of reducing risk. Risk is time 232 related in the sense that the longer it takes for an investment to recoup its cost of 233 investment, the greater the risk of failure.

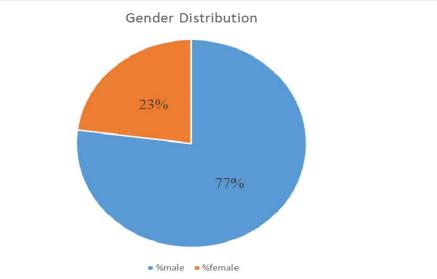
234 Profitability is largely affected by the price at which the fish is sold. The government's policy 235 to ban imports of farmed fish aims at enabling local fish farmers to get better prices and 236 increase their profit margin at the cost of the domestic consumers and foreign producers. 237 Price however is also strongly dependent on the size of fish. This is where good fish 238 production technology is essential. Asmah (2008) goes so far as to imply that the ability of a 239 Ghanaian producer to produce bigger sizes of fish allows him to set the price of his 240 production as opposed the price-taking behavior of those who can only produce smaller 241 sizes of fish. Thus, to be able to produce bigger sizes of fish is an advantage for the 242 producer.

243 244 **3.5 Gender**

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246 Gender distribution in the fish farming enterprise indicates the level of engagement of 247 women and men. Women have played and still playing essential roles in the development of 248 the fish farming subsector. On the other hand, aquaculture presents a development strategy 249 for poor and busy women to combine household chores with farm operations. This present 250 study reveals a huge gap in man-woman distribution in the fish farming trade. It is evident 251 that males dominate the fish farming business in Ghana. With the male having a percentage 252 of 77 against the female with 23%. Majority of the farms surveyed did not females as shown 253 in Figure 3.





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Gender distribution in the fish farming enterprise indicates the level of engagement of women and men. Enabling women to fully engage in and benefit from aquaculture and fisheries can boost production reduce poverty and enhance nutrition security for millions of fish-dependent households Women have played and still playing essential roles in the development of the fish farming subsector. This present study reveals a huge gap in manwoman distribution in the fish farming trade. It is evident that males dominate the fish farming business in Ghana.

The findings in this study in in agreement with research works conducted. Aquaculture is therefore principally male-oriented particularly in relation to pond preparation, input procurement (fingerlings, fertilizer and feeds) and application of fertilizer and harvesting Nunoo and Eunice, (2012). Asmah (2008) attributed the low number of female ownership of farms to the fact that traditionally men are deemed to be the heads of the household unit in Ghana and farms owned and run by a family are likely to be in the name of the head of the family. Also, the involvement of women in subsistence fish farming activities also remains relatively unchanged and limited to feeding, processing of harvested fish and marketing.

Upcoming evidence reveals that gender equality will play a key role in these sectors' important contributions to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on poverty reduction and food and nutrition security. In particular, gender equality in fisheries and aquaculture can bring many potential benefits including higher fish productivity and household incomes, as well as positive nutritional outcomes (WorldFish).

277 To summarize, the discussion above demonstrates that aquaculture in Ghana has a great potential to be highly profitable at the commercial level, depending on the scale of production 278 279 as well as the size of the fish and the price at which the producer is able to sell the fish at the 280 farm gate. Increasing the scale of production could mean moving from producing on a 281 subsistence basis to a commercial basis by increasing the factors of production such as 282 feed, fingerlings, labour, etc. By increasing the factors of production, the producer however will incur more costs, in absolute terms, than otherwise. If the production exhibits positive 283 284 returns to scale, the average cost per production unit will however be lower than before. 285 Finally, fish farming in Ghana is male dominated and need more female participation.

286 dominated and need more female participation.

287 288 **4. CONCLUSION**

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In Ghana, aquaculture is a highly profitable venture, depending on the scale of production as well as the size of the fish and the price at which the producer is able to sell the fish at the farm gate. In Ghana, aquaculture is a viable industry with high investment gains. Increasing the scale of production will involve from producing on a subsistence basis to a commercial basis by increasing the factors of production such as feed, fingerlings, labor, etc. The payback period for fish farming is 5 years. Finally, fishing in Ghana is male dominated and with less female participation.

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301 COMPETING INTERESTS

303 Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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492 493 494 495	DEFINITIONS, ACRONYMS, ABBREVIATIONS NPV : Net Present Value IRR: Internal Rate of Returns
496 497	APPENDIX
498	APPENDIX
499	
500	UNIVERSITY OF ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, SUNYANI
501	DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND WATER RESOURCES.
502	
503	Dear respondent this questionnaire is designed to be used for academic
504	research on the "THE ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF SMALL-SCALE
505	AQUACULTURE ENTERPERISE IN SUNYANI MUNICIPALITY" The

respondent is assured that all information provided was treated as

507 confidential.

- 508 Part I: Personal Characteristics of Respondents
- 509 1. Sex: Male [] Female []
- 510 2. Age:
- 511 3. Number of years of doing aquaculture business ?
- 512 1 year and less [] 2 4 years [] 5 7 years [] Above 7 years []
- 513 4. Highest academic achievements
- 514 Primary [] Secondary [] 1st Degree [] Master's Degree [] other
- 515 (specify)
- 516 5. Primary Occupation:.....,
- 517 Sec. Occupation:....
- 518 **Part II : Estimation of Investment cost**

519 **Equipment**

ITEM	QUANTITY	COST GH¢)
Pump		
Net		
Vehicle		
Container		
Refrigerator		
PVC Pipes		
Wheel barrow		

Hoes	
Cutlass	
Scale	
Test kit	
Shovel	4
Sub total	
Contingency	
TOTAL COST	

521 Building

ITEM	QUANTITY	COST(GH¢)
Pond		
Fence	$\mathbf{Q}\mathbf{V}$	
House		
Sub total		
Contingency		
TOTAL COST		
\mathbf{O}		

524 Other Investments

ITEM	QUANTITY	COST (GH¢)

525

526 Part II : Cash Flow

527 CASH RECEIVED FROM FARM OPERATIONS

FISH SOLD (Kg) per cycle	VALUE (GH¢)

528

- 529 1. Do you receive income from other farm activities? YES/NO
- 530 2. If yes how much? GH¢

531 CASH PAID FOR FARM OPERATING EXPENSES PER CYCLE

ITEM	QUANTITY	AMOUNT (GH¢)
Fingerlings		
Feed		
Water quality & availability		
Cost of fuel &		

transportation	
Labour	
Repair and maintenance	
Management	
Miscellaneous	

533 Cash Received From Sales

ITEM	QUANTITY	AMOUNT (GH¢)
Brood stock	0	
Fingerlings		
Equipment		
Real estate		

534

535 CASH FLOW FROM FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

536 Operating Loan Received

- 537 1. Did you receive any loan for the business? YES/NO
- 538 2. If yes, how much? GH¢.....
- 539 3. How much of the Loan have you paid? GH¢.....
- 540 4. Source of Loan?
- 5. Where you able to pay all operational cost? YES/ NO
- 542 6. If no how much did you pay? GH¢.....

543 Cash Received From Non Farm Activities

544	1. Did you receiv	Did you receive any non farm income for the business? YES/NO	
545	2. If yes, how m	If yes, how much? GH¢	
546	3. Did you pay fo	Did you pay for any non farm expenses? YES/ NO	
547	4. If yes, how m	If yes, how much?GH¢	
548	5. Did you make	any withdrawals for family and living activities? YES/NO	
549	6. If yes, how m	uch? GH¢	
550	Part II: <u>Gender</u>		
551	1. How many en	nployees do you have?	
552	2. Are there mal	es? YES/NO	
553	3. If yes how ma	any males?	
554	4. Which activity	are the males mostly associated with?	
555			
556	5. Are there fem	ales ? YES/NO	
557	6. If yes how ma	any females?	
558	7. Which activity	are the females mostly associated with?	
559			
560	8. Are range of e	employees.	