Challenges and Opportunities for Milkfish (*Chanos chanos*) and other Finfish Aquaculture Development in Zanzibar

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Over the past five years the aquaculture of Milkfish and other finfish species have been substantial increased in the fisheries communities of Zanzibar. This is due to several initiatives from academic institutions and donor funded projects. Due to this substantial growth and importance of this sector, it was very imperative to analyze this trend. This study is aimed to determine and analyze the potential and technical applicability in developing milkfish and other related finfish aquaculture in Zanzibar. This study was conducted in 2015 through administered questionnaire by gathering important information which includes general information, socioeconomics, aquaculture knowledge and market system support knowledge from 36 fish farmers of Both Island of Zanzibar. The farmers have been randomly selected from different categories that are based on size, quality and yield of fish farming enterprises. Multivariable regression was used to determine association between farm yield with other collected variables. The results indicate that out of 36 respondents, 56% experienced increasing their farm yield while only 6% experience decreasing in their farm yield within the five years in the industry. The results also show that there is a significant association between farm yield and pond size, knowledge of source of finance and access to capital, working devotion (fulltime/part-time), fish farming knowledge, technical skills and special trainings of farmers. Furthermore, the results indicate that 47% of the respondents’ ponds had been idle for several weeks. The main reason for this is lack of fingerlings due to the limited number of nursery ponds. The prospect of Aquaculture developments in Zanzibar need to consider the better options of supplying fingerling to farmers, providing technical knowhow to farmers in fish production and access to capital and microfinancing.