

THARAKA
P.O BOX 193-60215,
MARIMANTI, KENYA



COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY
Telephone : +(254)-0202008549, +(254)-
02020076920
Email: info@tharaka.ac.ke
Website: tharaka.ac.ke

(A Constituent College of Chuka University)

DEPARTMENT OF DRYLAND AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

REPORT ON FISH FARMING TRAINING HELD ON 18TH MAY 2022 AT BS7 .

UNIVERSITY FARM

Fish is important as a source of protein in form of white meat. There has been rise in consumer demand due to its nutritive value and fairly good amount of Omega-3 fats. Tharaka University College, through the department of Dryland Agriculture and Natural Resources is in a strategic position to popularize commercial production of fish to improve the income and health status of people living in Tharaka Nithi County.

This training will provide an opportunity for the University College to offer outreach services to the community as enshrined in its mission. The training on fish farming was organized and involved participants from Tharaka South and Tharaka North sub-counties. Officer from the Department of fisheries were also in attendance and who also played a big role mobilizing the participants.

The farmers who attended the training had varied experiences. Some farmers were experienced in fish farming for a long period of time while others had started and wanted to gain more knowledge on fish farming.

The program requests were approved in goodtime and enabled procurement of meals, allowances for livestock officers and stationery for training activities as per the attached request (appendix 1). The comprehensive budget for fish training is as shown in appendix 2.

For efficient running of the program, the attached schedule (appendix 3) was developed. The training took whole day and involved in-class training as well as field visits and demonstrations on the university fish pond. The opening and closing ceremonies was graced by the senior officials of the university that included the Registrars and the Deputy Principals.

The participants received certificate of attendance after the training. As part of the University college commitment on outreach services, farmers were issued with 20 packets of face masks and 25 litres of Alcohol-based sanitizer to share among themselves.

Way forward from fish farming training

The training was successful and the following were the key points emanating from training:-

1. The participants were grateful and thanked Tharaka University College for the outreach program. There was a positive feedback from the participants on the skills, knowledge and the attitude change towards fish keeping.
2. There was the need to organize farm visit and impart more knowledge about fish farming in terms of breeds to keep, fish feeds and diseases.
3. To further benefit the community, coming up with breeding stock, it was observed that there was need for a model breeding fish farm where farmers can get replacement stock to increase fish production in the county and ensure food security.
4. The issue of marketing for fish was also highlighted as important since this would serve as a means for ensuring that there is sustainable fish production as well as wealth creation.
5. It was also observed that the university should be in the forefront in terms of pushing for increased fish production in conjunction with the department of fisheries and other key holders. The university, it was observed places the fish farming at good position in terms of market for the fish.

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