

A VISIT FROM THE MINISTRY AND NATIONAL AQUACULTURE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER (NARDC)

1.PURPOSE OF THE VISIT

-To assess hatchery operations, evaluate production practices and appreciate the progress being made in supporting aquaculture development through the production of quality fish fingerlings.

2.ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED

Upon arrival, the delegation was welcomed by the farm management team and given an overview of the farm's operations. They were taken on a guided tour of the facility, where they inspected:

- *The broodstock management section
 - *Hatchery and incubation units
 - *Nursery tanks and greenhouse fingerling production systems
 - *Water supply and water quality management systems
 - *Biosecurity and sanitation measures implemented throughout the facility
 - *Fingerling grading, counting and stocking procedures
 - *Record-keeping systems for yearly production, monthly production and sales
- The management team also explained the farm's production process, from broodstock selection and spawning through incubation, nursing and fingerling production as well as strategies being implemented to maintain production and improve survival rates.

3.OBSERVATION

They expressed their satisfaction with the overall organization and management of the facility. They were particularly impressed by:

- *The cleanliness and maintenance of the hatchery and greenhouse
 - *The well-managed broodstock nursery systems.
 - *Good biosecurity measures that reduce the risk of disease outbreaks.
 - *Proper record keeping and production monitoring.
 - *The healthy condition and uniform quality of the fingerlings being produced
 - *The commitment of the farm staff to maintaining high production standards
- They commended the farm for contributing to the growth of Zambia's aquaculture sector by supplying quality fingerlings to fish farmers and helping improve fish production in different parts of the country.

4.RECOMMENDATIONS

They encouraged us to:

- *Continue maintaining high production and biosecurity standards
- *Expand fingerling production capacity to meet the increasing demand
- *Continue adopting improved hatchery technologies and management

Practices

- *Strengthen collaboration with the ministry through information sharing and technical support

CONCLUSION

The visit was highly successful and strengthened the relationship between the farm and the ministry of Fisheries. The delegations expressed appreciation for the professionalism demonstrated by the farm management and staff. They acknowledged the facility as an excellent example of a well-managed fish fingerling production enterprise and encouraged the team to continue producing high quality fingerlings that support the sustainable growth of the aquaculture industry in Zambia. The ministry further informed the farm management team that they will conduct a follow-up visit soon.

