

PROJECT PROFILE

<u>Sector</u>	Agriculture
<u>Sub-sector</u>	Fisheries
<u>Code</u>	AG 11 (A, C & G)
<u>Title</u>	Fisheries Research Programme
<u>Implementing Agency</u>	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry & Fisheries
<u>Location</u>	All Lakes in Uganda
<u>Total Plan Exp.</u>	US\$ 0.80m
<u>Funds Secured</u>	US\$ 0.80m
<u>Funding Gap</u>	Nil
<u>Start Date</u>	1987
<u>Completion Date</u>	2002

Background

The fishing industry provides about 30% of Ugandans' protein intake. There are various species of fish in the country, but the population of each species is not known. To draw up future fisheries development programmes to exploit the fisheries resources, a fish stock assessment and inventory survey is needed to determine the size of each fish species in each lake. This knowledge will then be used to expand the current fish factories and other related infrastructure as well as for regulating the catching and marketing of fish.

The programme will contribute to improved and sustainable management of the fisheries sub-sector. This will lead to improved food security and increased employment opportunities.

Objective(s)

- i) To determine the stock of the various fish species in all lakes;
- ii) To strengthen fish research facilities;
- iii) To conduct fisheries research and collect fisheries data.
- v) To provide information that will be used for sustainable development of the fisheries resource base on a sustainable basis.

Expected Outputs

- Stock assessments of the major fisheries resources completed.
- A plan for the management of the fisheries of Lake Victoria prepared.
- Development of the institutional capacity to maintain a resource management system.
- Policies for sustainable utilisation of the lakes resources formulated.
- Develop guidelines on types and size structure of fish for harvesting.
- Develop measures for conserving and improving stocks of endangered species.

Performance Indicators

- number of fish species identified in individual lakes
- population of individual fish species determined
- number of fish factories and related infrastructure in place.
- Percentage of donor/counterpart funds disbursed annually.

Technical Description

The Fisheries Research Programme comprises 3 on-going projects which are implemented by the Fisheries Research Institute (FIRI).

- i) AG 11(A) -Regional Fisheries Project: financed by EEC with the aim of assessing the fish stock of Lake Victoria. Phase I of the project started in 1989/90 and ended in January 1993. Phase II whose main objective is to evaluate the aquatic resources of Lake Victoria started during 1997/98 and will last for 5 years.
- ii) AG 11(C) -Lake Productivity Project financed by IDRC and covers lakes, Kyoga and Albert. This project was during 1994/95 redesigned to address the remaining activities of AG 11(B) -the Nile Perch Project whose major activities phased out during 1993/94. The expanded project addresses issues concerning individual fish species and water quality/limnology, fishery and socio-economic aspects and critical and immediate research requirements for Lake Kyoga and Lake Albert management.

- iii) AG 11(D) - East African Great Lakes Project financed by McArthur Foundation and GoU is Collaborative research between FIRI and Michigan State University. The project which started in 1991/92 aims at investigating the socio-economic benefits to fishermen, fishmonger and consumers of the changing fishing patterns and changed fish species in Lake Victoria. Major project activities phased out during 1997/98 FY.

Feasibility Study

The programme is benefiting from a wealth of experience/information obtained from those projects in the fisheries sub-sector which have ended, namely:

- The UNDP project on Rehabilitation of Fisheries statistics and information system
- The Nile Perch Project
- The Fish Commodity Systems Economics Project

Financing

The programme is funded by EU, IDRC and GoU.

Plan of Operation

The following activities are executed:

AG 11[A] Trawl surveys and stock assessment surveys using the research vessel Ibis. Biological sampling of commercial catches will continue. Training of staff and fishermen will be conducted. The project will develop a participatory process with a view to interesting stakeholders in the resource management.

AG 11[C] Continued monitoring of changes in lake productivity mechanisms in lakes Kyoga, Albert and the surrounding satellite lakes. This includes eutrophication, sources and roles of various nutrients, fish breeding habits, the species diversity and the overall biology and ecology of the fish species. The project will conduct training workshops/seminars.

AG 11[D] The project will make a follow up on interviews/surveys already undertaken to fill any remaining gaps, complete data processing and analysis, and write up the final report.