

How to rear Tilapia in Earthen Ponds



How to prepare an earthen pond

The pond should have a depth of at least 1 meter. If it is an old pond, pump out the water, eliminate weeds, and sprinkle lime powder all over in a ratio of 1 kilogram per 30 square meter (approximately 60 kilogram/rai), in order to normalize the pond. Leave the pond to air dry for 1 week, after this, then add water.

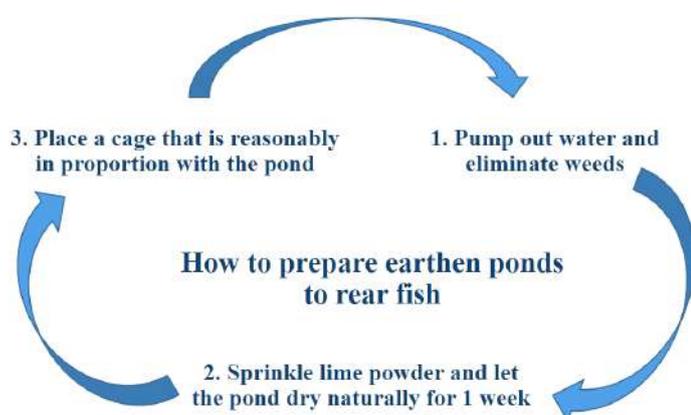
Farmers should add fertilizer (50 kilograms/rai/week) in order to encourage natural food sources. This will help cut feeding costs. If rearing the fish in cages is desired, make sure that the cages are reasonably proportioned with the dimensions of the pond.

For ponds that are located far away from communities, it is advised that fences be put up around the pond so to keep out animals.

Choosing and releasing juvenile fish

The health and quality of the juvenile fish are important factors to take into account when purchasing. Therefore, carefully check that the juvenile fish are healthy and don't appear to be diseased.

Before releasing the juvenile fish into the pond, it is recommended that the bags in which they came in are aloud to float in the pond for about 10-15 minutes. This is to allow the fish to become familiar with its new surroundings. The best way to release the juvenile fish into the pond is to slowly release them at a ratio of 2-3 fish/square meter.



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How to prepare the pond

1. Pump out the water in order to draw out pests that might cause harm to the juvenile fish, and allow the pond to dry naturally.
2. Sprinkle lime powder to normalize the dirt.
3. Add fertilizer to encourage plankton growth; a natural food source.
4. If removing the water out from the old pond is not possible, use a caged nursery system.

Managing during the rearing phase

Juvenile Tilapia require feed high in protein. At the very least, fertilizer should be added to the ponds so to encourage a natural production of nutrients. Additionally, renewing the water supply once in a while is also recommended.

Rearing time is approximately 5-6 months. During the 4th to 6th months, the rearer needs to be especially careful about the amount of oxygen content in the water. At this stage, it is recommended that the water be renewed about once a week. Furthermore, as the fish matures, the feed needs to be adjusted accordingly; about 3% of the fish's body weight/day. And the feed should be decreased when the temperature of the water drops, for example, during winter.



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