



DAVID FINCHAM
AQUACULTURE

Newsletter – May 2020

From the desk and under stage 4 Lock Down

For many of us in South Africa, stage 4 lock-down is not much different to stage 5 as we all await the guidelines of the “New Normal”. We are in varying states of mind as to what this will mean for us, our families, friends, and businesses. Many are also looking at new opportunities, new ways of living and just continuing to survive and hopefully thrive on a fragile planet. How do we build resilience and security in such uncertain times? The phrase “This too shall pass” seems to be one of the most frequently used answers. Yes, but what does this mean? It simply means life will carry on whether we chose to make changes and act or whether we do nothing.

At David Fincham Aquaculture, we have remained positive and have developed a plan to get us through this time and a strategy to take us into the future.

We have cut our expenses and reduced our stocks; we are staying alive and in business. We have engaged with suppliers and are securing stocks for spring. We are booking training on a safe, social distancing and flexible programme and looking into online discussions and topics we can engage our learners in. This will be ready for the 25 May.

Many of our current enquiries are from people who are looking at changing their career paths, or who are wanting to create additional income for themselves, their family members and or communities. Designs and plans are being made to venture into the small scale urban and rural environments. We are in discussions with venture capitalists and funding organisations to explore the possibilities.

Surprisingly enough there are parts of the world where “Seafood” Tilapia consumption has increased during the lock downs. America is one example. President Trump has vowed to remove the chains that hold back aquaculture development and has pledged 300 million USD to aquaculture relief funding.

Fishermen cannot go to out sea, they are unable to supply their catches to the usual markets and supply chains, as processors and distributors and logistics have all be constrained. These issues are being faced by fish communities worldwide. Resulting in a decline of supply but more importantly a huge loss in employment.

As much as there are challenges and negatives, there are always opportunities and positives. So be safe, stay positive, this too shall pass!

Farmers

What would the world be without farmers? Throughout the crisis farmers have had to keep farming and somehow try to keep supplying. Some have had to think on their feet and shift markets and accept prices offered. It is easier to keep fish in the water than it is to keep crops in the field or chickens in the coop or animals on the pasture. Whatever the circumstances farmers are often under the influences of outside and uncontrollable forces. This leaves our food security vulnerable and our household budgets exposed. There is an interesting read “The End of Food” by Paul Roberts. Quote “if we’ve learned anything in the past year, (2008-2009) it’s that any reprieve is likely to be temporary. We know that until we address the systemic

problems of our food supply, the symptoms will recur, and we can expect more shortages, more outbreaks of food-borne illness, more tainted products. We know, in other words, that our food system is still deeply flawed. The only question, in my view, is whether we've finally reached a threshold where this awareness can be translated into action." Arrival of COVID-19 and the "New Normal" 11 years later.

Training

Please see below the scheduled training dates to the end of 2020. These are not confirmed or are the only dates available – we are very flexible to your timing. We engage with individuals, groups and across the borders regarding the opportunities and needs for training.

We are also happy to host farmers days and workshops at a "Host Farmers" farms – and at schools, NGO's, Universities and Community projects; indeed, anywhere where fish can play an important role in providing food security and nutrition.

The Aquaculture Production Unit (APU) system is purchased by the "Host Farmer" and this will be established on the farm during the farmers day. This demonstrates to those present, the installation, operation, stocking, feeding, water quality management and fish farming aspects of the Aquaculture Production Unit (APU) The (Host Farmer) now has "Skin in The Game" and can develop knowledge and skills and create support from other farmers and customers within the community.

Most investors would want to see not only a business plan and pitch before investing but also a level of understanding, knowledge, practical learning within Tilapia production. Practical skills within the sector and within the African Market are exceedingly difficult to obtain. Farms are few, production methods are ponds/cages, farms are remote, and generally, the amount of work and learning one can do comes from 6-9 month production cycles. With the APU you are learning in situ, learning every day, observing, monitoring, feeding, testing, recording, analyzing, and questioning every day.

David Fincham Aquaculture Training Dates 2020			
Month	Date Start		Date Finish
May	25	to	28
June	22	to	26
July	27	to	30
August	24	to	27
September	28	to	01-Oct
October	26	to	29
November	30	to	03-Dec
All training fees to be paid in advance.			

Sadly no training took place in April as a 7 strong delegation from Nigeria had to postpone their trip, but remain in contact and they will as soon as travel and Covid-19 restrictions are lifted they will join us together with some of you for training. If you wish to book training we are sending out a special training offer, in which we will still have the on farm practical element at a time when this can be scheduled, this offer will be for Johannesburg and Gauteng based delegates only. Please drop us an email for more detail.

Equipment

The scrapyard at the farm has an assortment of filter tubes, tanks and items which can be purchased for a reasonable offer. We are clearing out and so by the end of the month these items will be set to the scrap Dealers. Some of the equipment in use during R&D and development phase of DFA and some assigned to



the scrapyard. Talk to us we know you are keen to get started and this is how we started!

Stock

Those looking for stock are reminded that permits must be in place and that we require 10 working days' notice to arrange orders and prepare fish for collection/delivery.

We do hold stocks of the following;

Black/Silver NMT (Natural Male Tilapia) *O.niloticus* – Bred from Til-Aqua parent stock

Red NMT (Natural Male Tilapia) *O.niloticus* – Bred from Til-Aqua parent stock

Red *O.mossambicus* (Mozambique Tilapia) (Blou Kurper) stock Ex Rivendell Hatchery parent stock

Tilapia coptodon (*Tilapia Rendalli*) (Rooibors Kurper) available by arrangement

Catfish Fingerlings available by arrangement

O.niloticus fingerlings from GIFT Parent Stock MT Treated, available by arrangement

All orders are only placed and arranged once full payment has been received. Any stock not collected on the day arranged will be released and further costs will be incurred on re-capture and holding of these fish.

Please request quotes and send permits to davidfincham@mweb.co.za

All permit requirements, forms and processes are available on The DEAF Website.

https://www.environment.gov.za/sites/default/files/docs/forms/permitapplication_restrictedactivities_alien_andlistedinvasivespecies.pdf

<https://www.environment.gov.za/>

Contact Us

Please contact us if you need any assistance with your fish farming projects, purchase of Aquaculture Production Units or fingerlings, participate in a training course, or if you would like to visit the farm in Muldersdrift, Johannesburg.

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The DFA Team – May 2020

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<http://www.tilapiafarming.co.za>

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