

Prerequisites of site selection for fish farming

Before constructing the pond, the water retention capacity of the soil and the soil fertility has to be put into consideration because they affect the organic and inorganic fertilization of the pond. Topography of the site. The topography provides a basis for determining the height difference of the pond which aids water to freely flow from one point to another. Generally, on flat land, a depression is created by excavating the soil to create a depression, and the excavated soil is piled on the four sides of the depression to form dikes and make a fish pond.

Other factors considered

Vegetation. This is the number of forest trees that are found on a site. This is important because areas with a large number of trees usually increase the cost of pond construction.

Adequate water supply. Fish need water to survive hence the site should have a sustainable supply of adequate water. The source of water could be streams, springs, irrigation canals, rivers, lakes, and wells. The water should be free of pollutants and with a temperature of between 20 to 30 degrees. **Land availability and nature of the soil.** Ensure that the land is legally acquired and soils with high clay are best for pond construction because it has a high water holding capacity.

Availability of fast-growing fish. Fast-growing fingerlings should be sourced for stocking hence they should have a high feed conversion ratio and be got from a reputable hatchery.

Availability of feed. When citing a pond, a farmer has to consider the source of feed to ensure high productivity and pond profitability.

Profitability, the type of fish must have marketability and appeal to the customer.