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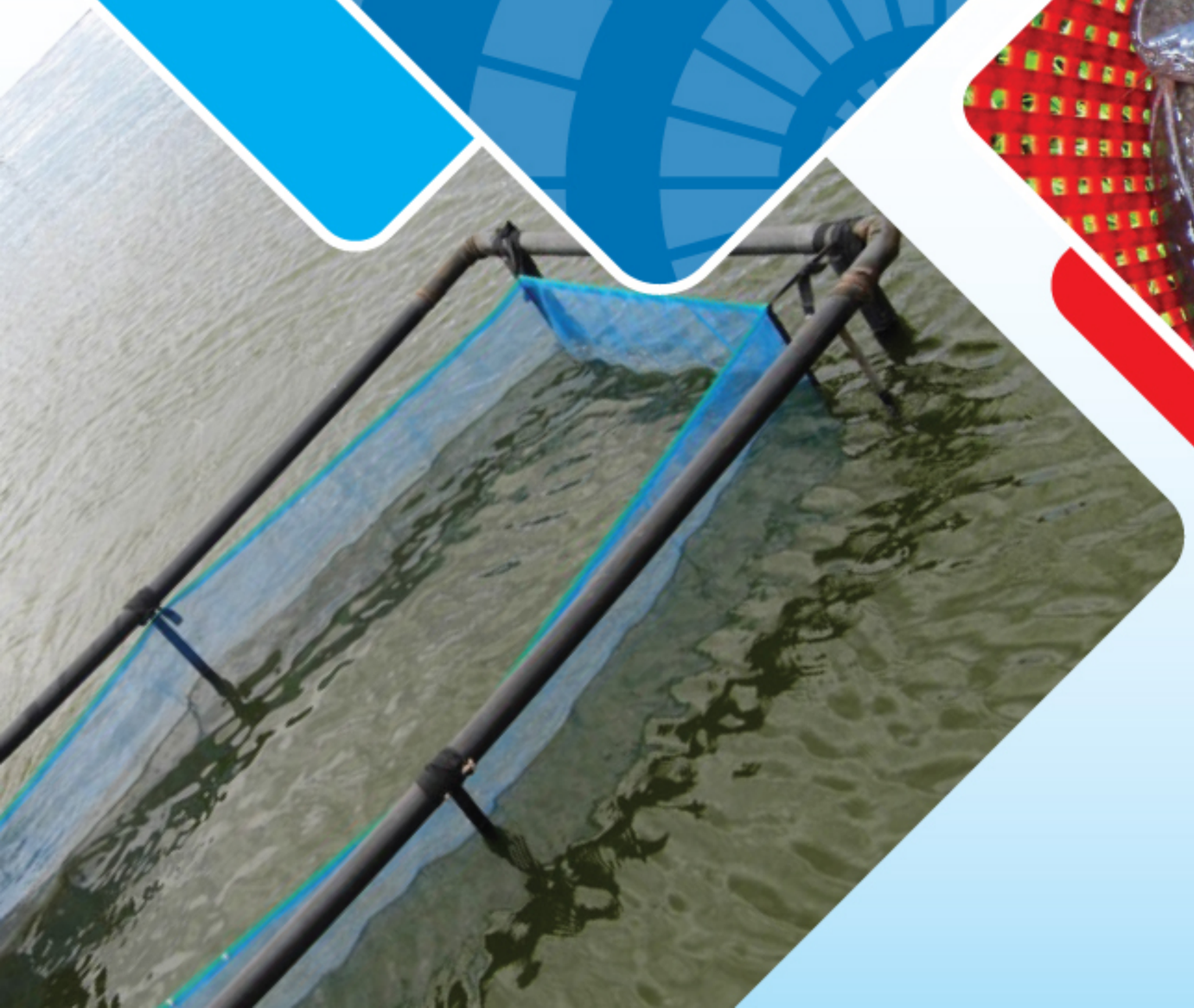
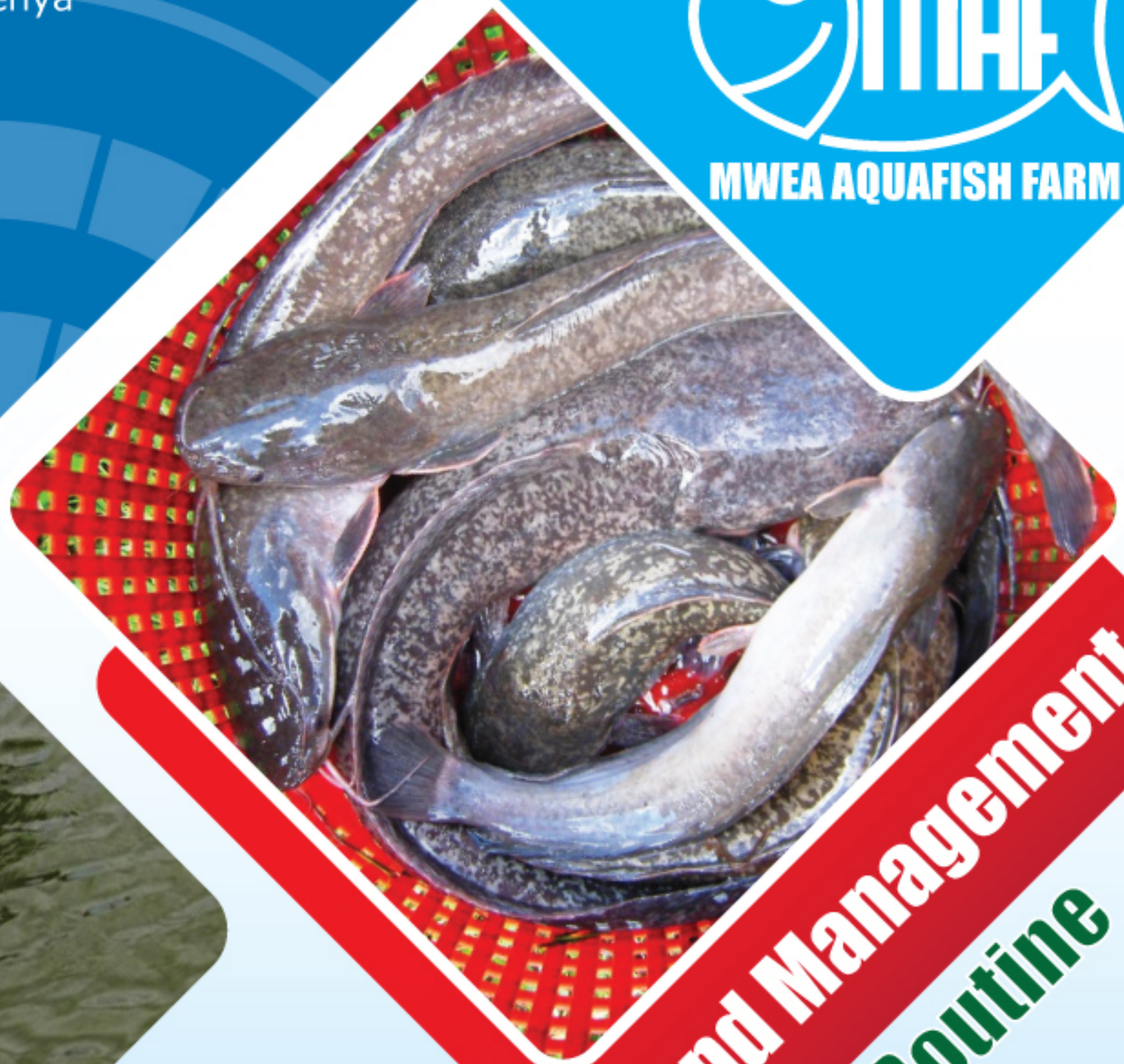
MWEA AQUAFISH FARM





Pond Management Routine

Routine Pond management

Importance of Pond Fertilization

- Raise the natural food for the fish.
- Increase nutrients which are used by the plankton for growth.

Remember excess fertilizers or manure can cause oxygen problems in the pond and sometimes can kill the fish.

- Always observe the behavior of the fish especially during the morning hours to see if they come up gasping for air.
- If they stop gasping after the sun comes out, they will be okay. If not, add fresh water.
- If water is so green that you cannot see the fingers of your hand when you extend your arm into the water more than 15cm down, then you don't need to fertilize that week as there are enough nutrients.
- Maintaining good green water in ponds is a great skill and with practice you will gradually learn how and when to use fertilizer or livestock manures in order to maintain the green water. Once you can do this your fish especially tilapia will grow well.

How do we add organic fertilizers to the fishpond?

Apply organic fertilizers to your pond before filling it with water. Never fertilize your pond if it is full of weeds. Pull them out first then fertilize afterwards. Shallow waters promote weed growth. Keep pond sides trimmed so the grasses on the pond dikes do not spread out into the pond. This also prevents unwanted pests such as snakes and frogs.

How do I apply inorganic fertilizers in my fishpond?

Dissolve the fertilizer in a bucket of water by stirring and then sprinkle the solution at different points of the pond. If you throw the fertilizer in dry form, it will sink and some of the nutrients especially phosphorus will be absorbed by the mud.

How much inorganic fertilizer should I use?

You will need to add both Phosphates and Nitrates in your pond to increase nutrients and change the colour of water to green.

- If you use DAP add about 2g/m^2 every week, or 200g per 100m2 per week.
- After adding DAP you need to add 3g/m^2 of UREA every week to increase Nitrogen.
- If the fish pond is 300m^2, you will need to add three times the amount.

Dealing with Fish Diseases and their treatment

First determine the cause of fish disease, check and fix any obvious problems such as water quality, figure out which disease your fish has by closely observing the symptoms and then commence treatment if necessary. If you don't have the knowledge to do this get someone who does.

Open Sores & bloody areas

Common fish disease symptoms:

Behavioural signs

- Feeding decreases
- Swimming: weak, lazy, erratic
- Roughing against hard object
- Infected fish isolating themselves
- Gaping mouth and swimming backwards
- Floating in water head up
- Crowding/gathering in water inflow
- Fish "jumpy" when person arrives at pond

Physical signs

- Body: open (often red) sores, lesions, bloody areas, loss of scales, swollen belly
- Gills: pale, eroded, swollen, bloody or brownish
- Fins: folded, eroded
- Eyes: cloudy , distended or bulging
- Presence of disease organisms on skin, gills, fins

Hatchery Rearing Units

- Rearing units include small tanks or troughs for swim-up fry, intermediate-size rearing tanks for fingerlings, and large outdoor rearing ponds or raceways.
- Rearing units should be constructed so they can be drained quickly and independently.
- Rearing units should be adequate not only for the normal everyday water flow in the hatchery, but also for increased volumes of water needed during draining and cleaning of the facilities.