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Ssempijja
(left) holds
a basket
of fish
harvested
by Pearl
Aquatics
on Lake
Victoria.
Photo by
Julius
Luwemba



Sh200b earmarked for fish farming

WAKISO

By Julius Luwemba

The Government, through the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, has embarked on promoting fish farming in order to diversify Uganda's economy in regard to agriculture.

The ministry has set aside sh200b out of a sh860b budget for fish farmers, in the next financial year. Farmers will first be sensitised about fish farming.

Agriculture minister Vincent Ssempijja revealed this on

Tuesday during a tour of one of the fish farming projects at Tende Bay on Lake Victoria in Wakiso district.

Ssempijja said fish farming would be budgeted for in every financial year to promote Uganda's exports. "We came to this site to benchmark how the project is carried out and we are hoping to start by sensitising farmers on mechanisms and advantages of fish farming, whether in the lake or at home," Ssempijja said.

He said the project would subsequently require more than sh400b every financial year, part of which is expected

to come from donors.

Gladys Bwanika, the chief executive officer of Pearl Aquatics, a company engaged in fish farming in Tende Bay, said the project is profitable due to the viable market, both locally and in the East African region. "We harvest fish on a monthly basis and we export 14 tonnes of tilapia to Kenya, Rwanda and Congo," she said.

She lauded the ministry, saying: "Through the agriculture ministry all the fish farming inputs, including fish feeds, were exempted from paying taxes when being imported into the country."