



AQUACULTURE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

A CASE STUDY

**Bukosi Village in Kakamega County Converted into a Fish Village
drven by Family Engagement, Community Spirit and Government
Interventions – spurring entrepreneurship**

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Bukosia's Aquaculture Legacy: The Story of the 'ABDP Village'

Tucked away in of Kakamega County, Matungu Sub County, Mayoni Ward, lies a community that defies the usual development narrative. Bukosia Village now referred to as the "*ABDP Village*" is a hot spot of aquaculture activity. Here, fish farming is not just a livelihood—it is a way of life, a tradition passed down through generations, and a testament to resilience, innovation, and family unity. Nearly 80% of the households in Bukosia village have fish ponds, a majority of which were established well before the introduction of the Aquaculture Business Development Programme (ABDP). These farmers are not new entrants responding to external support; they are legacy fish farmer's families who inherited the knowledge, passion, and practices of aquaculture from their parents and grandparents.

In recent years, this cultural practice has undergone a remarkable shift toward entrepreneurship, turning Bukosia into a shining example of how innovation, family engagement, and community spirit when married with the right support can drive sustainable livelihoods. With the entrance of ABDP most of the farmers have adopted upland fish farming which has intern helped minimize the challenges that most farmers previously faced due to the distance to their ponds.

The uniqueness of this village lies in its deeply rooted culture of aquaculture and its organic growth model. Most households own at least two ponds, with some having as many as eight. Both Catfish and Tilapia are farmed a fact that Ometty's compound exemplifies with three compact ponds neatly tucked behind his home, and several raised ponds in front. It is also no coincidence that Bukosia thrives under the Aquaculture Business Development Programme (ABDP): a national initiative renowned for catalyzing growth in Kenya's Fisheries Sector. The convergence of a naturally aquaculture-inclined village with a program committed to value chain development has created the perfect synergy, encouraged entrepreneurial mindsets, provided trainings, innovations and Technologies and in-kind support that has enabled the community to expand the scale of production.

At the heart of the village at Francis Ometty's home is an integrated fish farm demonstration site that was set up by Mamu Fisheries Aquaculture Field School with support from ABDP in collaboration with the County Government of Kakamega. With a well set up BSF Unit, an Azolla Pond, a Chicken Coup, Dairy Goat Unit, well set-up multi Storey Kitchen Garden and a well-stocked fish pond with an aeration system powered by solar technology, the village plays home to a model farm where one system supports the other while minimizing the cost of production and ensuring environmental conservation. Kitchen waste is used in the production of the BSF. The BSF and azolla are in turn used as alternative feed for both poultry and the fish. The droppings from the chicken go directly into the pond and help to fertilize the pond. The seamless way in which the farm runs has greatly helped to minimize the cost of production. The farm serves as a learning site where other farmers from far and wide come to learn and witness a high-impact, sustainable, and profitable model that showcases the synergy between the different agriculture enterprises.



An Azolla pond at the Demonstration Farm in Bukosia Village, Mayoni Ward, Matungu



One of the multi Storey Cone Gardens at Mr. Francis Ometty's farm

The spirit of innovation is not limited to individuals. The entire community is marked by a willingness to explore climate-smart technologies and adopt better management practices. This

has made their aquaculture ventures resilient, even sustainable without external donor support. Despite challenges with marketing, a common concern across the county, Bukosia's farmers have found ways to market their fish at farmgate through local networks and long-standing customer relationships, allowing them to maintain viable enterprises over time. Their knowledge, passed down through generations and fine-tuned through innovation, allows them to adapt and stay afloat even when external support is minimal.

The household model of pond ownership is also distinctive. Fish ponds are not simply family assets; they are individual enterprises where women and the youth are equally allowed to own and manage ponds.

The economic importance of fish farming in Bukosia cannot be overstated. For many families, it is an important source of income funding education, healthcare, and household expenses. The average income per cycle of production is KES. 60,000 to KES. 90,000 with some fish farmers recording an income of up to KES. 120,000 per production cycle. The community's ability to sustain their ventures even without continuous donor support speaks to their resilience and adaptability.

This is not just a story of fish farming. It is a story of quiet transformation, in a sector where donor-dependency and disjointed farmer organization are common, Bukosia village offers a different model, one that blends tradition with innovation, personal initiative with community solidarity, and resilience with adaptability. It is a story of a village that has turned ponds into classrooms, innovation into culture, and family compounds into thriving hubs of aquaculture excellence. It shows what is possible when communities are supported to build on their own strengths, adapt with innovation, and engage every member of the household in shaping a shared prosperity. In the national journey toward aquaculture-led growth, Bukosia village locally known as ***"ABDP Village"*** stands out not just as a success story, but as a model worth emulating.



A PVC Liner Fish Pond covered with a Bird Net at Mr. Francis Ometty's home