

3. Egrets (E'nnyange)



Egrets waiting by the pond side for water levels to drop before eating the fish

B. Animals

- ☐ The grass around the pond should be cut short so that there is no place for the animals to hide and eventually come out to eat the fish.
- ☐ Many animals come out at night to eat the fish. You can set traps like poisoned fish for them to eat.
- ☐ Some scare crows of these dead animals keep the other animals away because they will come to know that there is danger near the pond when they see one of them dead.

1. Snake (Omusota)



A python mainly eats the adults in a pond. You can discourage it from coming near your pond by planting tobacco, which smells like fire. Snakes do not like this smell, so they will keep away.

Conclusion:

Fish farmers should know how to identify the different predators in their ponds. They should also know how to prevent and discourage such predators from entering the ponds. In this way they shall harvest fish that are not injured and hence of good market value. Secondly, they shall also harvest more fish to adequately supplement their protein diet as well as family income.

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CONTROL OF COMMON PREDATORS OF POND FISH



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Introduction

Fish is an important source of food and income for many poor households in Uganda. Fish farming also relieves the fishing pressure on natural water bodies. However, fish growing in ponds have a lot of enemies called predators which either injure or kill the fish in the pond. This reduces the amount of fish caught at harvest time as well as the quality of the harvested fish as a result of injuries they sustain from these predators. The exact amount of fish loss caused by these predators has not yet been ascertained. However, farmers have complained that predators are mainly responsible for fish losses to their ponds.

The Kajjansi Aquaculture Research and Development Centre (KARDC) is the government research centre that is carrying out research on solving problems associated with fish growing in ponds. The KARDC has prepared this leaflet/brochure to address the concerns of four common predators of fish growing in ponds. The production of this leaflet will teach fish farmers how to identify and control four very common predators of fish in ponds.

Controlling

A. Birds

- ☐ Maintain a 1.5 foot depth of water in the pond especially in the dry season when the water levels usually drop. When the water level is at least 1.5 feet, the birds can easily drown in the water if they try to enter the pond.
- ☐ Fertilise the pond and make the water green using cowdung and chicken, goat and duck droppings. Put in 2kg of cowdung per 100m² of pond area per week. When the colour of the water is green, the birds cannot easily see the fish in the water and this keeps the fish safe.
- ☐ Cut shrubs and small trees around the pond area. Clear at least 15 metres and beyond the edge of your pond so that the birds do not find a resting place where they can watch the fish and fly to the pond and eat them.
- ☐ Patrol the ponds once in a while so that any birds that may have flown near the pond side are scared away. Small children would enjoy chasing away these birds in their free time, so ask them to.



Marabou Storks eating fish in a Draining pond

The Marabou storks hunt in groups and each of them eats many small, medium and big sized fish. Because they move in a group they are very destructive in a short time.

1. Hammerkop

The hammerkop and the egrets both eat many of the small fish called fry (of between 1-3cm long) and fingerlings (of between 3-7cm long).



The Hammerkop