IV. Snakes

Set traps for water snakes that feed on fish fingerlings.



Fig 7. Snake trapped in a fish pond.

V. Frogs and Tadpoles

Manually remove egg masses of frogs or build a cheap elevated fence to disrupt its breeding cycle



Fig 8. A frog laying eggs in a fish pond.

Shallow fish ponds (less than 0.5 m depth) will attract birds. Water levels should be at least 1.0 m deep to prevent birds from walking and eating fish in ponds.

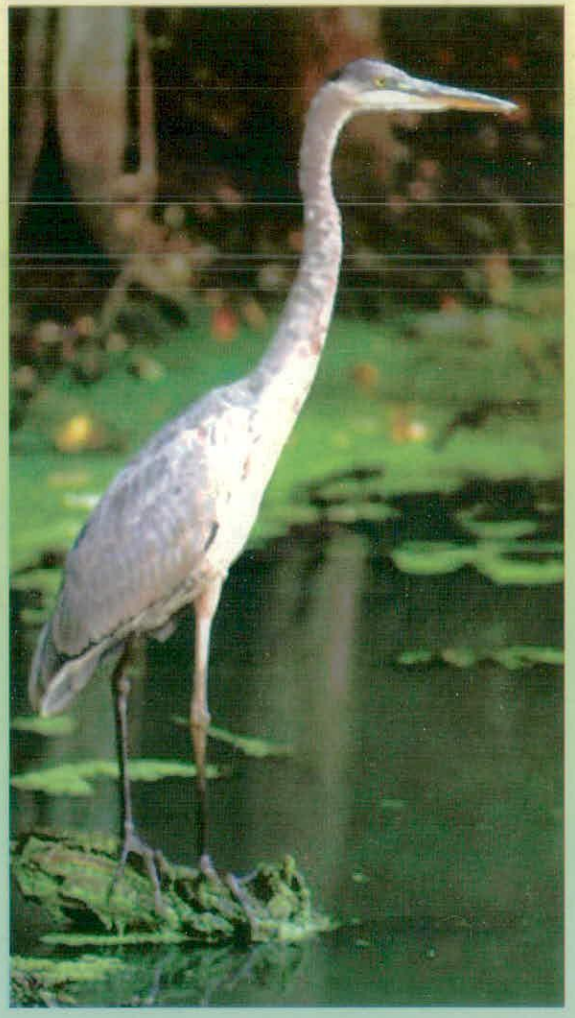

Fig 9. A heron besides a shallow pond.

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Controlling Predators to Improve Pond Yields and Profits



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1.0 Predation in fish farming

Fish farmers in Uganda are constrained with problems of predators that eat stocked fish and this causes economic losses. Predator control management is thus needed. This is a necessary precaution to ensure the health and safety of fish stocks in ponds protecting and improving pond yields and profits of the farmers.



Fig 1: Egrets feeding on fish fry kept in happas causing fish escape.

2.0 Fish losses by predators

Predators (e.g birds) can consume 5-30% of newly stocked seed (fry or fingerlings) in ponds if not well protected. Predators also have a habit of pecking and damaging skins of pond juveniles or adult fish. Damaged skins of pond fish makes them susceptible to diseases (parasites, bacteria and viruses). Diseases will cause massive fish losses if not treated or managed properly.

3.0 Controlling Predators

3.1. Dry the fish pond for 2-4 weeks before filling water for restocking the pond.

3.2. Sterilize the fish pond with;

a) Quick lime applied at rate of 100g/m^2 (full pond) when pH is more than 11.

b) Hydrated lime applied at rate of 150 g/m2 (full pond) when the pond has low pH (<6).

c) Tobacco wastes applied at rate of 200g/m2. (full pond).

d) Tea seed cake at rate of 60 g/m2 (full pond).

e) Other special chemicals need expertise guidance. Please consult NaFIRRI - Kajjansi for more information.

3.3. Regular control of growing grass, bushes and shrubs around the pond areas is a preventive measure to some predators.

4.0 Common predators and their control strategies



Fig 2: Lavae of dragon fly preying on fish fry

I. Air-breathing insects

Cover surface of pond with cheap vegetable oil, motor oil or diesel oil at rate of 8L/1000m2 every 5-7 days when no wind is blowing.



Fig 3: A beetle feeding on fish fry.



Fig 4: Larvae of dragon fly feeding on fish fry.

II. Gill breathing insects

Use organophosphate insecticides. Consult NaFIRRI-Kajjansi for details.

III. Diving Birds

Limit access for diving birds like Cormorants that consume 300g per day of catfish fingerlings or adults of up to 300g.



Fig 5: Cormorant standing on a outlet pipe