**Addressing the Goals and Objectives of the Feed the Future Initiative: Enhancing the Profitability of Small Aquaculture Operations in Ghana, Kenya, and Tanzania**

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The Aquaculture & Fisheries Collaborative Research Support Program (AquaFish CRSP), located at Oregon State University, brings together resources from US and host country institutions to develop sustainable solutions in aquaculture and fisheries for improving health, building wealth, conserving natural environments for future generations, and strengthening poorer societies’ ability to self-govern in ways that respect the sanctity of all. In aligning strategies and goals with Feed the Future (FTF), the US government’s new global hunger and food security initiative, USAID recognizes that providing the poor with better access to well managed water resources can help eradicate poverty and improve livelihoods, health, and ecosystems. In 2010, AquaFish CRSP received funding from USAID for a three-year project to enhance small-scale aquaculture operations in Ghana, Kenya, and Tanzania. This project works toward reducing the prevalence of poverty by accelerating inclusive agriculture sector growth through improved agriculture productivity, expanded markets and trade, and increased economic resilience in vulnerable rural communities. Using three components of outreach—central media, demonstrations, and lateral diffusion—this project looks to promote the adoption of best management practices for pond aquaculture within three target technologies:

1. **Effluent Management Practices**: Includes guidelines on pond operations, settling ponds and vegetation ditches, draining to wetlands, top-releases for partial drainage, and water re-use (by holding or re-circulating to other ponds).
2. **Nutrient Management Practices**: Includes guidelines relating to fertilizing and feeding regimes that avoid wastes or, in worse cases, result in deteriorated water quality that threatens the health or condition of the fish.
3. **Profitability Analysis**: Appropriate stocking and feeding regimes can reduce the cost of production through reduced aeration, better water quality, higher survival, reduced use of medication and chemicals, improved feed conversions, and thereby increased profitability.