Aquaculture:
Improving production of quality fish seeds

The use of quality fish seeds/fingerlings is one of the major contributors to good yield and improved productivity of farmers in the aquaculture sector. Farmers are faced with the constraint of accessing good quality fish seeds because there are only very few hatcheries with quality fish seeds, and over time, as a result of inbreeding, the quality of seeds from the good hatcheries have declined.

To address the constraint, PIND partnered with the Fisheries Society of Nigeria (FISON) to develop quality broodstock banks for catfish with selected hatcheries in the region. The parent stock for the project was sourced from the wild to minimize, to a large extent, gene contamination. PIND also identified and partnered with six private hatchery operators from Delta, Ondo, and Rivers States to raise broodstock banks from the pure lines produced by FISON.

Cedar of Lebanon in Ondo state is one of the hatcheries partnering with PIND to promote quality seeds in the state. Mr. David Aregbesola, the CEO of Cedar of Lebanon farms said the broodstock developed has contributed significantly to the production of quality seeds from his facility. He has increased his production by almost 43% (from 140,000 per cycle to 200,000 fish seed per cycle) due to the high productivity of the broodstock and the growth rate. This has resulted in a total turnover of 5 million Naira.

He has now expanded and upgraded his hatchery production unit to RAS (Recirculatory Aquaculture System) to accommodate the increased production. According to him,

"the broodstock development program has contributed so much to our growth and we are getting good feedback from our clients. I must thank PIND for this program"

PIND would be tracking the impact of the fish seeds on the farmers in quarter three.

A parent fish used to produce other fish

Inbreeding: mating of fish closely related
Broodstock: a group of mature fish used in aquaculture for breeding purposes
Purelines: organisms with only the desired characteristics
Recirculatory Aquaculture System: culture water is purified and reused continuously