

Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0044-8486(16)30480-X
DOI: doi:[10.1016/j.aquaculture.2016.09.024](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aquaculture.2016.09.024)
Reference: AQUA 632324

To appear in: *Aquaculture*

Received date: 25 November 2015
Revised date: 26 May 2016
Accepted date: 12 September 2016



Please cite this article as: Harohau, Daykin, Sulu, Reuben J., Phillips, Michael J., Sukulu, Meshach, Pickering, Tim, Schwarz, Anne Maree, Improving household tilapia (*Oreochromis mossambicus*) aquaculture through participatory action research, *Aquaculture* (2016), doi:[10.1016/j.aquaculture.2016.09.024](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aquaculture.2016.09.024)

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Improving household tilapia (*Oreochromis mossambicus*) aquaculture through participatory action research

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Key words: aquaculture, on-farm trial, participatory action research, Solomon Islands, Mozambique tilapia

Abstract

Land based aquaculture has the potential to mitigate future shortfalls of food fish supply in Solomon Islands. However, aquaculture is relatively new in the Pacific and such potential is hampered by a lack of aquaculture knowledge and practice within local cultures. A participatory action research approach was used to conduct on-farm trials with farmers in Solomon Islands to develop relevant and improved ways of farming and maximising productivity of the resident exotic tilapia *Oreochromis mossambicus*. During the 34 month period when the research was undertaken improvements were evident, through increased farmer participation and improved knowledge of farmers on pond design and fish husbandry techniques. One of the contributing factors to improved farmer understanding was the production of knowledge products which were co-developed with and based on the farmers' local context. Productivity of a typical 20-38 m² pond ranged from 726 to 1819 kg ha⁻¹ year⁻¹. Because 80% of this production was consumed by

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