Aquaculture and Aquaponics Course

Grow Fish Grow Plants Grow Profit

Background

Aquaculture is a rapidly growing global food-production industry. In 2013 farmed fish surpassed the wild-capture fishing industry as the primary source of fish and related products for human consumption. Today in excess of 136 000 000 tons of fish and other seafoods are produced globally each year; this is made possible by technological innovation and advances which make aquaculture a highly efficient, commercial-scale industry.

Aquaculture growth is particularly significant in Africa. Projections indicate that the population of Africa will double by 2050, so the demand for high-quality protein will increase dramatically. Aquaculture offers a practical and sustainable solution to meeting this growing need.

One of the methods used to farm fish is the recirculating aquaculture system (RAS), whereby fish are held in tanks and water circulates and is filtered and reused continuously through the tanks. In order to prevent the accumulation of wastes within the system, traditionally a certain proportion of the water is discharged daily. Aquaponics, a technical breakthrough integrating plant production with the fish, is now used to convert fish waste to nutrients for the plants. When properly balanced, aquaponics systems not only improve environmental sustainability but can also generate significant additional income, often with plant income exceeding that of the fish.

The United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals need to be achieved in order to improve the quality of life and sustainability of the planet (https://sdgs.un.org/goals) highlight the importance of sustainable food. Aquaculture and Aquaponics can provide a solution to many of the goals, including food security and improved standard of living, if implemented responsibly.

Given this opportunity, Aquaculture Solutions has partnered with Aquaculture Innovations and Urban Aquaponics to offer a comprehensive 4-day Aquaculture Training Course. First run in 2004, the course has regularly been updated and refined to reflect the latest technology, market realities and best practices. It is specifically designed for entrepreneurs and investors seeking to establish or expand successful aquaculture ventures in Southern Africa.

This course offers practical knowledge, real-world insights and a solid foundation for building a profitable and sustainable aquaculture business.

AQUACULTURE SOLUTIONS

AquaCulture INNOVATIONS

JUST FISH AND NATURE
URBAN AQUAPONICS

Course Content

The aim of this Aquaculture Course is to provide a comprehensive introduction to the global, continental and local industry, along with clarity on the technologies, species and methodologies that are most appropriate to the farming of fish and aquaponics in Southern Africa. In short, we want you to leave this Course with a clear idea of what works, why it works and how to implement that successfully. This Course focussed on fish farming and aquaponics, and does not address crustaceans, molluscs or aquatic plant farming.

Aquaculture & Aquaponics Course Overview				
Time	**Day 1**	**Day 2**	**Day 3**	**Day 4**
8^{00} - 9^{00}	Industry overview	Cages	Feeding / WQ	Feeding / WQ
9^{00} - 10^{00}	Breeding	Earth ponds	RAS	Aquaponics
9^{30} - 10^{30}	Breeding tilapia	Water Quality	RAS	Crop selection
10^{30}- 11^{00}	Tea	Tea	Tea	Tea
11^{00}- 12^{00}	Breeding catfish	Water Quality	RAS view system	Starting a new system
12^{00}- 12^{30}	Breeding trout	WQ prac	System Management	Aquaponics Management
12^{30}- 1^{00}	Husbandry	Feeding Fish	Fish Health	Crop health
1^{00}- 1^{45}	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1^{45}- 2^{45}	Site selection	Anatomy & Physiology	Size sorting, counting	View aquaponics systems
2^{45}- 3^{30}	Legislation	Tilapia	Catfish	Trout
3^{30}- 4^{00}		Feeding / WQ	Feeding / WQ	Economic reality

Theory is combined with practical demonstrations on the commercial facility where the Course is held.

Venue

The Aquaculture Course is held at Urban Aquaponics, a commercial trout aquaponics farm in Gerardsville, Gauteng, South Africa. Attendees will therefore be able to view commercial installations across a range of options, and these will each be examined in detail and discussed to highlight the advantages, limitations and practical applications of each.

Presenter

Leslie Ter Morshuizen (MSc Ichthyology) will present the Course. He is a well-known pioneer and innovator in the aquaculture and aquaponics industry who has of 30 years of hands-on experience. Leslie has designed, built and run a wide range of fish farms and aquaponics systems from small scale operations to industrial scale facilities.

He is the founder of the **Aquaponics Association of Southern Africa** and the **Catfish Growers Association of Southern Africa**, and his work has taken him across Africa into Eastern Europe and the Indian Ocean Islands. He speaks from deep technical knowledge, with practical experience from decades in the field and as a true industry leader on the subject.

What sets Leslie apart is his honest, transparent teaching style. He speaks with authority and

openness ensuring delegates receive realistic, balanced insights rather than sales-driven promises. This sincerity, combined with his extensive knowledge, makes the course an invaluable opportunity for anyone serious about succeeding in aquaculture and aquaponics.

Cost

The cost of the course is R7 960 per delegate. This includes a Course Manual, daily opportunities for individual question and answer sessions, morning and afternoon teas and a midday meal each day. Delegates also receive an Attendance Certificate.

Dates

2 to 5 November 2026.

What previous delegates say about the Course

Gido Crous (South Africa 2004): Your knowledge is extremely broad and your solutions are practical, I wish I could have you as my technical partner.

Alan Bell (South Africa Aquaponics Course April 2015; Aquaculture Course May 2015): Your knowledge is extensive, the course content is insightful, and your ability to convey that to a broad cross-section of types of attendees with widely disparate knowledge levels shows great people skills. The attention to detail you and your team exercise got every facet of the course right from content to catering - congrats.

Richard Wright (Aquaculture Course, Singapore 2016): Solid content which will be used in years to come, the course was a standout for me.

Dustin Blessman (USA): The course had the right amount of hands on work as well as book work. Food was excellent!

Mohamed Atallah (Egypt): Very happy and if there is another opportunity I will do it again.

Didier Nyembo (DRC): Place well infrastructure to receive students and all put together to give a great insight to what fish farming is in ponds vs RAS.

Adrian Wenger (Switzerland): Fantastic training in all aspects!

Velimir Doncevic (Serbia): Dynamic, descriptive and interactive, 5 out of 5.

Terms:

We reserve the right to postpone a Course that does not have adequate delegates.

Full payment is required with Registration to secure your booking.

Bookings close on the Wednesday prior to each Course, or once we have the maximum number

of delegates Registered for a Course, whichever comes first.

If we cancel a Course, we automatically move your Registration to the following dates on which the same Course is offered. There is no charge for this and you will be advised in time to change your accommodation dates. If this does not suit you, we will refund you in full less a 10% administration fee.

If you cannot attend a Course at short notice, we automatically move your Registration to the following dates on which the same Course is offered at no cost.

Course Refund Policy:

- up to 4 weeks prior to the Course 80%
- 2 – 4 weeks prior 40%
- <2 weeks = no refund but moved to the next Course date

Accommodation:

Aquaculture Solutions provides our delegates with coffee and rusks on arrival in the mornings, snacks, fruit and yogurt at tea time, and lunch.

Be wary of booking accommodation far away if you do not have own transport as the Uber service to our area is unreliable.