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WATER HARVESTING AND AQUACULTURE  
FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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# INTRODUCTION TO AQUACULTURE

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## INTRODUCTION

More than one-fourth of all animal protein consumed by man is aquatic in origin. Regional differences range from Asia where more than one-fourth of dietary animal protein is fish to North and South America where less than 10% of animal protein consumed by man is from aquatic sources.

Aquaculture has been practiced in many Asian countries for centuries, but is a new form of agriculture in many African and Latin American countries. It is defined as the cultivation of animals and plants in aquatic environments. Aquaculturists manipulate certain components of the environment to achieve greater control over production of aquatic organisms than is normally possible in nature.



Figure 1: Increased production of aquatic animals and plants is achieved through aquaculture.