

Integrated rabbit-fish in rural development

- Field observations in Rwanda showed that 10 rabbits are sufficient to provide enough organic fertilization to 1-acre fish pond
- The only source of fish nutrition in this system could be the natural food which is stimulated and maintained by the organic fertilization by the excreta of rabbits
- Although rabbits are not traditionally eaten in many countries, there are significant national efforts to promote the consumption of rabbit meat which is low-fat, low-cholesterol meat rich in proteins
- This type of integration has potential application in world rural development programs especially whereas rabbits are consumed
- The advantages of the rabbit component in this integrated system include:
 - High quality meat, short generation, high productivity, fast growth rate, and low production costs.
 - Rabbits being herbivores, they can utilize on variety of farm byproducts. Forage, cassava, and sweet potato vines are examples
 - Job creation especially after some training



Integrated rabbits with mix-sex Nile tilapia in Rwanda



Photos credit: Fidele Kampayana & Emmanuel Hahirwabasenga (Rwanda)