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Fattening of mudcrab in cages

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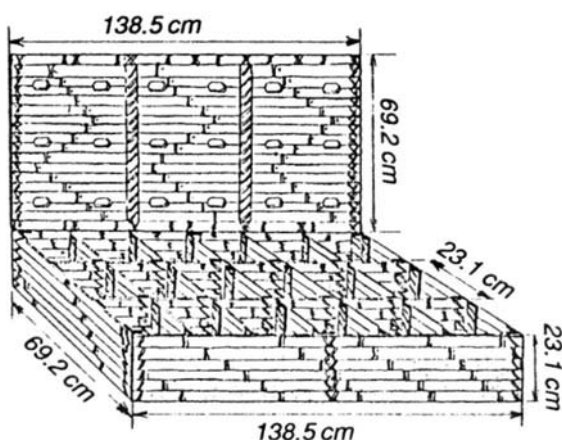
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Fattening of mudcrab in cages

The Department of Agriculture (DA) in Region VI conducted a study on fattening of mud crabs in bamboo cages. This technology was tested in Barangay Manapao, Pontevedra in Capiz.

Marketable thin crabs were stocked in bamboo cages (figure below) for an average 10-15 days. These cages have 18 compartments stocked with one crab per compartment. The crabs were then fed brown mussel meat every morning and afternoon. Trash fish, soft-shelled snails, kitchen left-overs, animal entrails, and other food materials were also used as crab feed.

Results reveal that this technology can generate a return of investment (ROI) of 154%. The 150-200 g unfattened crabs stocked in ten bamboo cages, which were purchased at ₱10 each were sold at an average of ₱150/kg after 15 days of fattening. The average weight obtained was 250 g each. This gave a gross income of ₱6525.00 with a net income of ₱3956.96 (Table 1).



Design of bamboo cages. Size can be modified depending on production target, manageability, and availability of capital.

These figures indicate that upon adoption of technology, a 100% ROI can be attained if proper care and handling of crabs are observed.

Table 1. Cost-and-return analysis

| Item | Cost |
|---|-----------------|
| <i>Operational cost</i> | |
| Seed stock (180 pc of 150-200 g mud crabs at ₱10/ pc) | ₱1800.00 |
| Feed (30 kg brown mussel meat at ₱5/kg) | 150.00 |
| Labor (one person at ₱20/day for 15 days) | 300.00 |
| <i>Depreciation</i> | 84.58 |
| <i>Contingencies (10%)</i> | 233.46 |
| TOTAL | ₱2568.04 |
| Gross income (174 pc fattened mud crabs at 250 g/pc with an average price of ₱150/kg) | 6525.00 |
| Net income | ₱3956.96 |

On the other hand, a demonstration-trial farm in Sasmuan, Pampanga has been set up by the science and technology department in Region III to showcase the cage fattening technology. Some 200 cages were constructed.

These cages can be installed along river channels which have been silted by lahar or in fishponds stocked with other species.

Source: *Let's fatten mud crabs*. **Farming Update**, Vol. 3, No. 2, April-June, 1991; **Philippine Daily Inquirer**, 27 Feb. 1992.