



Improved Snail Farming in Liberia

Cost - Benefit analysis (in USD) Forest & Farm Family Unit

The cost-benefit facts presented here are based on the results of the pilot implementation of snail farming as an income generation activity for 30 Liberian families in Nimba, Grand Gedee and River Gee Counties with the support of the Non-Legally binding instrument (NLBI) project during 2012-2013.

Unit

One Forest & Farm family. To start small scale snail farming activities one family needs 5 standard snail cages.

I. Potential and benefits

The availability of abundant vegetation, snails, seasonal rain fall and water, are clear indications that Liberia has great potentials for sustainable, profitable and healthy snail ventures. However, improved snail farming is new in Liberia. Therefore it requires some level of training at the initial stage and monitoring and follow-up during the first year of the activity.

Economic Benefits: Small scale snail farming involves low production cost and it is not labor intensive. Snail farming can be easily integrated with other farm activities to add sources of income for sustainable livelihood.

Nutritional Benefits: Snails are highly nutritious and they contain proteins and calcium

II. Cost analysis

- a. **Construction cost of 5 standard snail cages**, as starter kit for a farm family, to start an improved snail farming business activity.

Number of snail cages	Cost per snail cage(depreciation/ 4 years)	Total (USD)
5	20	100

Cost of breeding stock

No. of snail cages	No of breeding stock per cage	Cost per breeding stock	Total (USD)
5	100	0.25	125

- b. **Production activities/ labor cost**

The activities are: Snail cages management/cleaning and feeding. These activities will be undertaken by the farmer family.

Number of months	Cost per month (USD)	Total (USD)
12	5	60

c. Training facilitation cost, follow-up and monitoring

Number of days	Facilitator fee per day (USD)	Total (USD)
50	5	250

d. Summary of costs per family

Equipment/services	Cost (USD)
5 snail cages	100
Breeding stock	125
Snail cages management (labor)	60
Facilitator fees	250
Total Costs	535

III. Benefits

Production period /cycle of 12 months

Projection (yield and cash value)

Number of snail cages	Matured snails per cage, per production cycle	Number of snails per production cycle per family	Sell price per snail, at farm level (USD)	Total income per production cycle (USD)
5	1,000	4,000	0.25	1,000

IV. Conclusion of the cost benefit analysis

A Liberian Forest & Farm family that owns 5 standard snail cages, with total investment of 535 USD will generate total revenue of 1,000 USD, annually for 3 years. It means about 85 USD per month, which is almost equivalent to a monthly salary of a civil servant.

