

# Aquaponics in Cameroon

- ▶ Young Cameroonian entrepreneur Flavien Kouatcha founded "Save Our Agriculture" in 2015, a start-up dedicated to commercializing aquaponics systems and thereby popularizing aquaponics in Cameroon.
- ▶ Aquaponics is an agricultural technique that involves growing plants and raising fish in closed circuit. This system, which requires no chemical additives (fertilizer, pesticide, ...), consists of three major steps.:
  - ❖ Aquarium water, charged with fish excrement and rich in ammonia, is conveyed onto plant beds -often clay-containing bacteria.
  - ❖ These bacteria convert the ammonia into nitrates, an essential nutrient for plant growth.
  - ❖ Plant roots absorb the nitrates, purifying the water, which is then recirculated to the fish tanks.
- ▶ As water resources become increasingly scarce, this technique produces yields three to four times greater than those of traditional agriculture, while using 10 times less water. In addressing the issue of waste in aquaculture basins, aquaponics also considerably reduces fish farming water requirements.
- ▶ Beyond its ecological advantages, the system developed by this start-up enables the practice of agriculture and fish farming in urban areas, irrespective of the availability of arable land for planting or marine environment for fish.
- ▶ Since launching in 2015, "Save Our Agriculture" has provided over 150 production units to professionals, as well as individuals seeking a healthier diet.
- ▶ The initiative has earned several international awards, including the "African Entrepreneurship Award" in 2017 and the "Pierre Castel" award in 2018.

## References

- Fonds de dotation Pierre Castel. [\[online\]](#).
- Média-terra. *De l'aquaponie au Cameroun? Le projet de Flavien KOUATCHA.* [\[online\]](#).