



25/6/2020 - XELECT ANNOUNCE NEW PARTNERSHIP IN KENYA: UNLOCKING THE GENETIC POTENTIAL OF TILAPIA

[No embargo – for immediate release]

Genetics experts Xelect have just completed a genetic analysis project supported by Msingi East Africa. This project helps to enable modern genetic selective breeding in tilapia operations in Kenya and Uganda.

The project is a significant step forward in sustainable aquaculture in the area, and began with Xelect's experts providing the partner farms with on-the-ground training in the best methods to take tissue samples. The samples were then brought back to Xelect's custom built laboratory in Scotland for DNA extraction and genetic analysis. This data will help East African Tilapia producers create long-term, sustainable breeding programme plans.

Operations Director, Dr. Tom Ashton, who visited the teams in Kenya earlier this year, commented: "We're delighted to be working with East African tilapia hatcheries. We're now a major step closer to helping with regional food stability for the area".

2020 has already been a period of considerable expansion for the St Andrews based laboratory, who have secured 6 new partnerships in recent months. The company recently announced an expansion of its breeding programme management team, a new rapid response genetics service and made a number of key hires in genetics and marketing.

CEO Professor Ian Johnston believes this growth is due to an increasing maturity in the market. "With so much inward investment in the industry we've reached a tipping point. We believe the market will ultimately fracture into major producers, using the latest genetics best practice, and smaller local operations. Investors would be very unwise to commit significant resources to aquaculture operations if they don't truly understand - and protect - the genetic capital of their broodstock."

HIGH RESOLUTION IMAGERY

A wide range of high resolution images are available on demand.



INFORMATION FOR EDITORS

Xelect (Xelect-genetics.com) is the leading independent provider of genetic services to aquaculture. Our customers are in every continent in the world except Antarctica. We operate a private, fully equipped genetics laboratory in St Andrews, Scotland

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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