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Hitting pause on aquaculture



In just a few weeks, we'll harvest our last batch of catfish...at least for the time being.

Over the last two plus years we've come a long way both with aquaculture and as a company. On the aquaculture front, we rehabilitated two waste stabilization ponds in Kumasi, built rearing infrastructure for our fingerlings, and increased stock survival rates from less than 5% to 75% over the course of three cultivations.

Along the way, Waste Enterprisers has become much more than a wastewater-fed fish farming company. Actually, we've become more and more a fecal sludge-to-energy company. We're on the brink of building our first commercial GreenHeat plant, and we're making steady progress toward developing a technology and business around converting fecal sludge to biodiesel.

All of these new developments have forced us to face a reality. As the entrepreneurship blogger Mark Suster writes, “[The scarcest resource in your company is management bandwidth. Spend it wisely.](#)” It’s time for us to heed that advice and focus our efforts on our FS-to-energy businesses.

The hardest part about suspending our aquaculture business is that we still have a lot of belief in its potential as a profitable waste-based business. I’m reminded of the words of Steve Jobs who said, “I’m as proud of what we don’t do as I am of what we do.” We’re proud of the advances we made with our aquaculture work and our aquaculture business model, and will be very proud to see others pick up where we left off.

Our local research partners at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology and at the [International Water Management Institute](#) have plans to continue research trials at the site. We’re also very happy to share all that we’ve learned with anyone who would like to start wastewater-fed aquaculture in Ghana or elsewhere. Please get in touch if you’re interested!

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