

wainaina-john-2017-06-20.mp4

[00:00:10] I've been here since 2006. Today it is about. Six seven years. Since then. As a manager of Trout.

[00:00:21] And can you tell me a little bit about what it is that you do what is your position and tell. My position managing the restaurant. Where I have a couple of staff. About that two of them. And also I manage the Trout farm Whereby we. Farm. A. Rainbow. Trout. We've been importing from the United States and Denmark. Currently we are importing from. South Africa. And. They. Are doing very well normally we import from. United States Denmark and now from South Africa. We are doing so so. Well.

[00:01:22] Here. So you import them as eggs is that correct. Correct. We import eggs.

[00:01:28] When we import the eggs a short time about. Five days and then they hatch and once they hatch from the fries before we harvest them it may take about a depending on their climatetakes about one year six months eight months and that depends solely on that climate.

[00:02:09] We have this drought up to 250 grams that is about table size that normally what we sell.

[00:02:26] Have enough both to eat and to export locally export locally not to outside of the country and often late we've had we've stopped selling outside simply because whatever we have is not enough. Our sales improved grown so big that whatever we have we cannot afford to sell outside.

[00:03:02] Well absolutely yes. Kenyans continue to get an appetite and it's becoming a very very popular meal.

[00:03:14] The trout fish is becoming very very popular. So we might be a clientele that domestic. What is it. It's coming up so well.

[00:03:31] We feed them with pellets and the pellets are normally. We produce them ourselves. Our Nairobi office do that. They give us the pellets and then we feed to fish. With that yes. Yes. So is it just like a high protein mix very high protein very very high protein. All of the additives the vitamins and all that is in it.

[00:04:06] Yes. What we normally do we do a lot of grading from their fries to their table size. That as I said there 250 grants and even bigger than 200 equals about even one KG. We have them. So we keep sorting them according to their sizes two different points. We have the plastic. We have the hatchery and we have the big ponds and even we have where we stock them for you know where when we harvest them we stock them where so that we can take them we can net them from that point and sell to that restaurant.

[00:04:56] These are started to the way back 1979. And by then it used to be operated by the guys they used to have some outlets in Nairobi Mombasa. And this was the kitchen garden so they could get the trout fish from here and take it flight to Nairobi and Mombasa for their clients. So. Back with 1979.

[00:05:37] Well let let me say you enjoyed one to deal with personal clients

[00:05:47] I'm really happy when I do. really what has really made me feel so good is when I see my clients happy. My clients are satisfied. And that has really motivated me.

[00:06:09] To feel that I will remain in this hospitality field for that long. And guess the thing is that you know I get online I get a lot of learning more about the hospitality and the industry is very is very enticing in a way that what I mean by enticing is that it makes me feel more more closer to my friends. I've met so many friends now. How. Many friends. And. Them that. I've continued to encourage me in this field.

[00:06:50] Excellent while you're doing a great job I had lunch here today and it was excellent. I've had trout all over the world and this was as good as trout I've had anywhere else.

[00:06:59] So a tale is true is very true that clients that come here they feel not only not only the domestic ones. Also we have some foreigners the tourists that come like today. We had quite a big group of tourists from UK and once they leave they say oh my is just an island in Kenya where we can get a trout so that the makes me feel so good.

[00:07:36] It happened that I came I didn't grow up here. I'm okay.

[00:07:40] I'm Kenyan by birth and by right. But Mount Kenya region.

[00:07:49] Is that a came I joined these place as I said in 2006. That's when I transferred. Initially I came from Mombasa. Restaurant known that's wasine and that's where I also came to learn about more about fish. Islands just near the border of Kenya and Tanzania. So that's where I got the interest about the fish farming because initially there was no Almost no one deal with. Fish.

[00:08:37] So after that I came to Nairobi and then from Nairobi in Mombasa from Mombasa to here.

[00:08:49] Yes that's a big challenge. Thank you for that question. One of the predators is the otter the Kingfisher.

[00:10:13] Our source of Water is Mt Kenya. That is the source. And We get it through the river. We get along. We supply our ponds. We have abstracted bit of water from the main river. We call it Margaret River. Then it flows. Through the ponds by gravity takes the water to the ponds direct and our water gets to the pond in and out. Yes the ponds 99 percent of the water goes back to the river circulates gets back to the river.

[00:11:21] Yes. For temperature it varies. And that depends on the temperature of the day. Normally locked in the best temperate is 10 degrees Celsius to around 15. That's normal. That abnormal is when it gets to 18 19. But if the water level is good much as That's it's OK if the water level is high. But when it is very low. That. Is. Not very good. And that also affects the oxygen as you have said when the temperatures are very. Very high. And the water level is very low. I watches and all of them yet the inlet when. The water. Comes from inlet. And you see them gasping. This gasping from. The inlet. All of them.

[00:12:37] Control that temperature That was all. And normally that's where we have maybe around 50 to 100 grams of fish. And of course as you can see we have some trees also that helps conserveThe oxygen.

[00:13:04] Wild yes. Yes. We have some wild. Quite a number. in the rivers. Yeah.

[00:13:14] Maybe catfish. Mudfish You find them mod these you find them. Yeah. Yeah yeah.

[00:13:27] No. Because what we've done. We have put some seeds. Right from the farmer. So. Anything. Gets them off. To getting to our pharaohs. So whatever comes to is only.

[00:13:46] The water that flows in. Thank you. That's.

[00:13:50] Great. There's a monkey. Yeah. Yeah. I hope you like what type of monkey user that is that Columbus monkey.

[00:14:00] The black and white friends of trout.

[00:14:04] Wonderful. That's the first time I ever had a monkey in an interview.

[00:14:08] Oh yeah. I don't know why they never ever visit it. They're like sampling whatever you sample.

[00:14:31] Because. When I grew up Gets a lot of vegetation. A lot of vegetation and so many trees and rivers. And streams and rivers. Flowing. And. Down the line I think it's this My brother. It was shocking to me. Yes so many mushrooming building up. No vegetation. And one of the things that I noted like this and this month. The vegetation. The plantation. Big. And. I found that the vegetation was you know is like still germinating So by now the vegetation will be so big. That has affected our climate. And I. Was worried myself. Because as I grew up in that place. One of the things I am telling. So many forests. A. Canopy of forests. Is no longer there and. The rivers. I noted this streams as thick as the streams and there are no streams that was a cause of worry to me. Because. If we lose them.

[00:16:13] Then I don't know where we are heading. So that is one that has really come up. And. Also. Time I came to Mount Kenya. Our river was full and the noise maybe the background you can hear as if there's a waterfall. That time you can not sleep. It's like. But today there is not water.

[00:17:03] This this year this month there is no ice on Mt Kenyan.

[00:17:08] That's the cause of worry. So when. Things like that happen. Yesterday I was pumping water from the river. Something that does not happen a month like now. Meaning. Yes the climate has changed. And is changing drastically. That's.

[00:17:46] is a cause of worry.

[00:17:49] I've heard that all over the world. Where and where I live in Montana we have Glacier National Park which is famous for its glaciers. So they think in 20 years the glaciers will be gone because of global warming. Everywhere I was in Nepal recently. He is and there I talked to some people at national parks and they talked about how some species used to not be able to live above say 5000 feet.

[00:18:16] Now they're finding him at seven or eight thousand feet because it's getting warmer. Yes. And.

[00:18:21] It affects everything like you were talking about with the rivers and streams of course everywhere. Water is life. It brings life to everything. And without the water. I don't know what happens when we have done.

[00:18:34] We had done this is really worrying is that land that is not very good. And. I don't know because also the population that is coming up. Is affected so much. The level of water flowing downstream. We have others now large scale farmers. Get growing obstructing a lot of water. Pumping water to their farms is uplifting downstream users. So. I think. We need to. Come up. Devise some new measures. That to help. Keep a lot of less willing. Maybe to me a flood. The government. May construct some dams. Big pumps.

[00:19:24] Have this. What type because when it rains you're losing so much water. All that water can be harvested at a time like now when there's drought. That water can be used. So I think those are the missions that really can be employed. And this is. The national government.

[00:19:48] Can do that. Where I live in Montana I live in an off grid house. So I do all solar power. But for all my water I harvest rain that I do. And that's all I ever learned that I used to water my greenhouse and then I have about a. 4000 gallon tank that I keep watering with the house I used for everything. Yes yes yes. I believe this is all what will solve our problem.

[00:20:15] Because we depend on the river water. Then. Down all even coming up with some levees. Because also we we can get some water. Now. So.

[00:20:32] We need to think of devise some mechanisms that will help us instead of depending on one source otherwise lenses can fade. If we continue doing that to.

[00:20:51] Thank you so much. That's a good question. I want to see. We cannot do without our national parks. These are some heritage that we need to conserve these are some very deep that needs to keep. The monkeys that you see here they are friends to trout.

[00:21:22] So for their national parks. One. That. They are economical To our country. We've been seeing so many. Tourists. Because they want to see. The wildlife in Kenya the big five. That's the lion the cheetah the tiger and elephant and the giraffes. For their national parks we have to conserve them. And. Because. Of the other wildlife. We have to cage them. We have to make them to be in the big tent. You know not like a zoo. Let them remain to be wild. So in fact really. Really. You know. Like. You asked me. When I grew up. When they was young. I could see animals roaming freely all over. Not being interfered with. So but now it seems that the population is growing. OK.

[00:22:48] And we as a country we earn a lot. Out. Of these.

[00:22:57] It seems to me that Kenya has done a wonderful job. I think that one of the ways to save and preserve wild areas is when locals and governments realize the economic impact that those areas can have. And I think Kenya's been on the forefront in the world. In preserving those areas and keeping They're Kenyan but really they belong to the world. They belong to us all right. Oh yes. Oh yes.

[00:23:24] Oh yes. We can not we cannot afford to destroy. Somebody say destroy their nature. And that's part of nature. I say. Destroy the vegetation and you destroy everything. Wildlife. And their vegetation. That country to remain the way it was.

[00:24:00] We've had I think we've had some issues. Especially with the disease. Last year.

[00:24:09] We had a bit of deceased we noted it was too late. I think if we had discovered. It. Almost. Affected that so much. Disease that come in. And. We were Up in it. And. We called in some experts the vet. Experts. And. They examined. And they advised us on what to do. And. One of the things. That. They. Advised us to do. Is to make sure that whenever we bring or we transplant. Fish from one pond to the other that one should be dry and clean to be disinfected completely and left to dry for some months. One month.

[00:25:12] We need it. That to me. Before we introduce. Some more fish. And that doesn't. Really help us. As I see that whirling disease was there. And only we discovered maybe it was brought. You know we used to circulate Also the water. Circulating the water as I see these circulating. So it did spread a lot of disease all other points. So that.

[00:25:39] Has been a problem to us. But I want to say. We have tried to manage that one. And I want to believe. You may need some says I've been to come later. We will be upon it.

[00:25:52] And that's the thing not very much. Of an issue. The point. That I saw as a challenge to. Our ponds is.

[00:26:13] You know when. When people are not a lot. And we keep on losing so many fish. Especially when there's not much oxygen that keep on jumping. And if you don't have some people there. So when the fish jump. And they jump out no oxygen out and. Then I'm gone. So the money that. You keep. On some we keep people were looking around these ponds all the time 24 hours that should be some people at the farm. Because if they're not there when they feel that jumping in need of oxygen some may jump and jump out. Is gone. And. It happened. And. Had. Lost quite a number before. But when we knew. So we said we need 24 hours people.

[00:27:17] That is true. Like I discovered the other day. When there was Moon. And it was raining. Jumping up. Meaning they're trying to get on those insects

[00:27:36] Years is very true. I noted that. And that's why I said.

[00:27:49] I really appreciate me being here. One of the things is that. Rainbow trout. This. One is. Beautiful. The color is just very attractive. Very very attractive. The thing about trout is very tasty very very tasty.

[00:28:14] Though. Also it depends on how it is cooked. Yet how it is being prepared. So here's the thing. The rainbow trout does not smell. Let me tell you. There's a big difference between rainbow trout and tilapia. You bring tilapia. And you. Put. Them somewhere. It really smells. Just eat the fish just walk into a motor vehicle and nobody will notice that you did feed on. Trout. Rainbow trout.

[00:28:53] Doesn't smell is good. It's tasty. Mine. OK. What. We marinated. It's. Marinated. With. Flour. And.

[00:29:18] And of course the soy sauce being marinated. And I like it when it is grilled. Put it on a grill it. And they take it to an export.

[00:29:44] I hope you enjoy it. And very good. So it is marinated. Well marinated enough that it is marinated Is grilled. I say that's the best thing is becoming very popular. Initially. So what I can see the Asian community as have already embraced eating fish which is a very good sign. Right.

[00:31:19] So I why I'm looking at some of the various ponds here it looks like over here some of the larger fish. Is that correct.

[00:31:27] Yes. These are about about two hundred and twenty pounds of fish that I guess float and about. And that's one we have big fish out 500 to 700 ponds.

[00:31:40] Oh yeah I can see you guys seen just one rise over there. Yes yes. Yes. And so each of the ponds is independent in turn in their water flow.

[00:31:49] Yes. Very independent. Well that's what gets me. Gets out. And the geese are there are those geese

[00:32:04] They are my lawn mowers they probably keep some things away too. it develops you and is it over there in the sheds is that where the frying eggs are hatched then.

[00:32:28] No actually we do that process. Oh OK. Yeah.

[00:32:31] That's where we do our processing. We do process. We have what's look.

[00:32:38] So you smoke some of the fish. Yeah we do. Oh I see. Yes. That's great.

[00:32:44] Well that's excellent. Well this is just beautiful it's an great setting here of course I'm staying in the cabin down the way there and that's gorgeous and the restaurant let me get a shot of this here and it's actually built in a tree it is just amazing it's gorgeous. Great food wonderful setting.

[00:33:11] Oh you that there's an upper deck. Excuse me. Oh yeah. That is just spectacular.

[00:33:29] And his amazing I came in I imagine a restaurant with better ambiance or scenery. Look at that. The monkeys come to say hello.

[00:33:43] That is just spectacular.