

Business figures for small scale cricket rearing in Africa

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Summary

A small cricket farmer using 30 crates in an insulated farm has a yield of 10 kg fresh/month (25.000 pieces) and 120 kg/ year. With a selling price of € 5/ kg fresh crickets, the turnover is € 50/month. Initial investment costs are € 665. Feed forms the main operational cost. Profit is € 38,50 per month and € 462/ year. If half of profit is used for paying back the cost of a loan, the full loan can be repaid within 3 years.



Upfront investment costs (CAPEX)

- › Constructing a farm of 6 m² with bricks and insulation in walls and roof has a cost of around € 300;
- › Crates adjusted for cricket rearing have a cost of € 10 each. A full set has a cost of € 340 (30 crates + 7 lids). This is excluding import costs (from Kenya). This is a high investment but worth to do so, with respect to durability and depreciation;
- › Purchase equipment like 120 egg trays, bowls for feed and water, thermometer, etc. – total € 25;
- › Follow a training in cricket farming; this can be for free or has a cost.

Yield

- › Of the 30 crates, 10 are used for reproduction and 20 crates for production/ harvesting;
- › Each production crate contains around 2500 crickets in each production crates - with a weight of 0,4 gram each when ready to harvest. So, the yield is 1 kg per crate per cycle. Yield is depending of proper organization, temperature, feed and egg laying substrate;
- › Optimal cycle time of the crickets is 8 weeks – yield is 1 kg per crate in 2 months. Cycle time can increase to 12 weeks when the crickets are not at a stable temperature of 28-32° day and night*;
- › Average yield is around 10 kg/ month fresh crickets; 120 kg annually.

Operational costs (OPEX)

- › Per kg fresh crickets the cost price is around € 1,15;
 - € 0,60 expenditures for feed (40% ;
 - € 0,35 for egg trays (hiding material; 120 pieces for 30 crates - replacement after 2 cycles);
 - € 0,20 depreciation costs of farm and equipment;
- › No labor costs included.

Sales and profit

- › A realistic, competitive selling price is around € 5 per kg fresh crickets;
- › In case of producing 10 kg a month, turnover is € 50/month and € 600 annually
- › Respecting the operational costs (of € 138 per year), the profit is € 38,50/month and € 462 annually
- › Weekly income starts after 2 months; first harvest is small, but will grow every month;

* In case the farm is not insulated, the yield can drop to 5 kg per month with a turnover of € 25 and profit of € 16 per month.