

EXPERIMENTING FLOATING RAFTS IN NICARAGUA LAKE

[University of Costa Rica](#) is working for implementing new methodologies of agricultural production in floating rafts in lakes. A first experiment realized in Nicaragua Lake thanks to the collaboration of [Grupo Cabal from Nicaragua](#), has brought to the production of melons, salads, tomatoes and cucumbers. The floating rafts can be built with recycled, low-cost materials.

These solutions allow a relevant saving of water for irrigation. Moreover, the crops on the lake surface produce the same evaporation that the lake surface itself would produce. An additional advantage is that plants cultivated in floating rafts are less sensitive to insects' infestations: therefore, it is possible to avoid the use of insecticides that are expensive and damage human health and environment.



An article published on the [Guardian](#) magazine presents the experience realized in Nicaragua Lake by the Project Director Professor Ricardo Radulovich, who teaches Water Sciences at the University of Costa Rica. Prof. Radulovich is also the author of the photos here published. These new agricultural production frontiers attracted the attention of the Canadian organization *Grand Challenges*, which is now financially supporting the ongoing experiment.



These studies and pilot projects want to identify feasible solutions with a global impact on food production. Some countries have already expressed their interest in applying this innovation, namely: Uganda, Ethiopia, the Philippines and Malawi. It is desirable that the technological potentialities identified could also have an impact on water quality improvement and on lake ecosystems jeopardized by industrial and solid waste and agrochemical products coming from the cities and the neighboring factories.



These technologies are based on the retrieval of indigenous population's practices, and show the great importance of recovering traditional knowledge in a global moment that makes fundamental to search solutions for the rational management of water and other environmental resources. These technologies can also be recovered at small scale, for improving food production in the territory, at the same time taking care of the water quality of rivers and lakes.



To know more

[Article of University of Costa Rica - Webpage on Research](#)

[Article Guardian](#)

[Article and video on Grand Challenges Canada webpage](#)

[Article on El Nuevo Diario Nicaragua](#)

[Projects of Grupo Cabal Nicaragua](#)

[Article on Dimidia](#)

[Article on CrHoy Costa Rica](#)

[Article on Observatorio de Acuicultura](#)