

## Selected Aquaculture Highlights from Sub-Saharan Africa<sup>1</sup>

Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) has made significant progress in aquaculture production in the past years. The most recent aquaculture statistics available from FAO<sup>2</sup> show that there has been a five-fold increase in production from 1998 to 2008.

Such progress can be attributed to a number of key developments.

- Active involvement of the private sector served as the primary catalyst to the development of aquaculture in several countries which resulted to spectacular advancement in many aspects of the industry.
- NEPAD Fish for All Summit (2005) - raised international awareness of the potential of aquaculture and adopted the Abuja Declaration on Sustainable Aquaculture in Africa; endorsed the NEPAD Action Plan for the Development of African Fisheries and Aquaculture. As a consequence, the AU/NEPAD Food Security Summit (2006) agreed to promote and protect fisheries and aquaculture as strategic commodity alongside rice, maize and other strategic food products.
- FAO Special Programme for Aquaculture Development in Africa (SPADA). Under this programme new approaches to aquaculture aimed at increasing the role of the private sector have been adopted across the region through elaboration and adoption of national aquaculture strategies. With the assistance of FAO and other partners, many countries are now at various stages of formulating and applying these strategies. Several governments have been adopting good governance including the divesting of expensive infrastructure and costly services, zoning of aquaculture areas, adoption of aquaculture specific legislation and policies, framework strategies and plans, and enacting conducive fiscal policies.
- *Aquaculture Network for Africa* (ANAF) - a critical element of SPADA with ten member countries (Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia) - has established a provisional "hub" with the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization.

Network expansion to other countries is ongoing, institutional strengthening being promoted as well as ensuring proper governance for aquaculture development.

- FAO assistance through the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) to Africa has intensified particularly focussing on development of national aquaculture programmes in many countries; during the past two years alone has included Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Gambia, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Zambia. FAO's South-South cooperation programme has mobilized over 1500 aquaculture and related field technicians and professionals mainly from Asia over the past 10 years to support aquaculture development in many African countries.
- The Committee for Inland Fisheries of Africa (CIFA) was changed to the Committee for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Africa (CIFAA) in 2007, making it possible for the aquaculture sector to have a formal intergovernmental platform. The 16<sup>th</sup> Session in Maputo, Mozambique, from 16-18 November 2010 will discuss *inter alia* an important topic on the need for a climate change strategy in inland fisheries and aquaculture and its potential impact on African aquatic ecosystems.



Cage culture of tilapia in Ghana

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- EC-funded Sustainable Aquaculture Research Networks in sub-Saharan Africa (SARNISSA) project plays a significant catalytic role in promoting aquaculture in the region particularly in the area of information flow and better exchange of information and experiences.

A number of projects are also being implemented to address many existing challenges facing the aquaculture sector in the region.

- GCP/INT/053/JPN *Agriculture and rural development through Innovative Rice-Based Farming Systems for food security and poverty reduction in Africa*, during past two years, organized workshops in Burkina Faso, Uganda, Tanzania and Benin on aquaculture in rice-based systems for increased productivity and market development.
- TCP/SIL/3104 *Assistance to fish farmers in Sierra Leone* focused on assisting the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) in establishing sustainable and private-sector-driven fish farming by developing pilot production units, ensuring reliable private supplies of quality fish seed, introducing farmer-friendly aquaculture technologies and identifying appropriate strategic approaches to aquaculture. The MFMR has been supported by a team of specialized TCDC consultants, also providing their assistance for the development of an aquaculture sector national strategic framework.
- TCP/RAF/3111 *Assistance to combat EUS in the Chobe-Zambezi River* and the Aquatic biosecurity project under the FAO Multi-donor Partnership Programme (FMPP). Since the confirmation of the occurrence of epizootic ulcerative syndrome (EUS) in 2007 as an outcome of an FAO international disease investigation task force, FAO continued to intensify its assistance to the region to raise awareness and improve capacity under the above programmes. Several member countries (Angola, Botswana, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe) participated in capacity development opportunities covering areas such as basic aquatic animal health management, EUS diagnosis and surveillance and application of risk analysis to aquaculture development.
- TCP/MAG/3301-*Urban and peri urban agriculture promotion for food and nutrition security improvement in Antananarivo* and GCP/BKF/048/VEN-*Agriculture intensification through sustainable water management in Nord and South Sabel regions* are being started this year.



*Seaweed culture in Tanzania*

Through both projects, FAO seeks to provide the necessary assistance to promote innovative integrated agriculture-aquaculture technologies and sustainable water management approaches, as a way to improve vulnerable urban and rural populations' food and nutritional security.

- GCP/RAF/417/SPA – *Tilapia Volta Project* (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali and Togo) - is a pioneering effort to produce and supply better quality tilapia seed. The project is based on a priority programme Better seed for African fish farmers.
- FAO overview of COPs/BMPs in aquaculture: development of a global overview and databank of Codes of Practice, Codes of Conduct, Best (Better) Management Practices and Technical Guidelines in aquaculture - a study is being carried out in Sub-Saharan Africa. Further information can be found on the aquaculture gateway page: <ftp://ftp.fao.org/FI/DOCUMENT/aquaculture/COPBMP/call.pdf>
- Countries such as Kenya, Ghana, Zambia and Nigeria, among others, are developing aqua-business planning and management tools to foster profitable and sustainable investment. ■

<sup>1</sup>These selected highlights were compiled by Matthias Halwart based on contributions from several FAO staff and specifically from SPADA, the Regional Review on Aquaculture Development in sub-Saharan Africa (prepared for the Global Conference on Aquaculture 2010), Follow-up actions to the 15th Session of the CIFA and available FPMIS information.

<sup>2</sup>FAO. 2010. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, Fishery Information, Data and Statistics Unit. FishStat Plus version 2.3.2 Universal software for fishery statistics time series. Rome. (<http://www.fao.org/fishery/statistics/software/fishstat/en>).