

Highlights of Aquaculture Activities in Latin America and the Caribbean

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In Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), FAO is making efforts to support and assist the sustainable development of aquaculture, especially aimed to contribute to poverty alleviation and food security. Activities in this region are coordinated jointly by the RLC office, the Multidisciplinary team for South America, the Caribbean Sub-Regional Office and the Aquaculture Service (FIRA) in Rome. Activities include implementation of Technical Cooperation Projects (TCPs), TCP Facility projects (TCPF) as well as unilateral trust fund projects (UTF). There are also regional activities funded by donor countries/entities with a wider regional and usually normative scope.

Several projects are intended to develop and implement national strategy for the aquaculture sector; such is the case in Bolivia, Paraguay and Peru. These projects are briefly described below:

Improvement of the Aquaculture and Fisheries Legislation in Bolivia (TCP/BOL/3101). Main targets of this project are to: i) evaluate current legislative framework

covering inland fishing and aquaculture, ii) formulate a new Law for Fisheries and Aquaculture, iii) perform a diagnostic of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors; and iv) formulate a National Strategy for the Sustainable Development of these sectors. The project is now in its second phase looking at the socialization and ratification of the Law and the Strategy.

Formulation of a National Plan for Aquaculture Sustainable Development in Paraguay (TCPF/PAR/3201).

This project considered a diagnosis of the national aquaculture sector and the formulation of

a national policy and strategy for its sustainable development. Planned activities include formulation of a new law to promote aquaculture, national aquaculture programmes for zoning and extension.

Assistance for the Implementation of the Aquaculture National Strategy of Peru (TCPF/PER/3201). This TCP facility project is intended to develop a UTF (self-funded by Peru) to assist the implementation of a national aquaculture strategy. Such strategy had been already developed with previous FAO TCP assistance.



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Small-scale aquaculture in the Amazon area

Some projects also focus on implementing practical measures to support the development of small-scale aquaculture at national level. Such is the case of the project Development of Coastal Communities of the North-East of Brazil (UTF/BRA/066). This project self-funded by Brazil promotes the organization of coastal communities, for the production, processing and commercialization of seaweed as well as other forms of mariculture.

Other activities funded by donor's programmes have a broader regional scope and aimed towards cooperation and integration within the region. These include the following projects: Aquaculture Network of the Americas, the GALAQUA initiative, the Regional Programme for Small-Scale, Resource-Limited Aquaculture and the Climate Change Preliminary Overview project.

The Aquaculture Network of the Americas (Red de Acuicultura de las Americas, RAA). This newly created regional cooperation network is an intergovernmental organization for the sustainable development of the aquaculture in the Americas. It is currently hosted by Brazil for which the country provides initial funding using a UTF mechanism through a project Activation of the Programme, Services and Consolidation of the Network of Aquaculture of the Americas (GCP/RLA/BRA/190), to execute the priority lines of action agreed by the member countries.



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Experimental culture of native species in Peru

Small-scale, Resource-limited Aquaculture (SSRLA). This initiative, currently underway, in partnership with the RAA has been a priority as requested by COPESCAL members during the XI session (Manaus, Brazil, September, 2009). It is starting off with a regional workshop to be held in Paraguay in August, 2010, to develop a harmonized methodology for the diagnostic of this sector in all countries of the region. The information will lead to a regional programme aimed at capacity building of SSRLA so that they gradually achieve self-sufficiency both technologically and economically.

The GALAQUA initiative. Within the framework of the Decentralized Cooperation Programme FAO/Galicia, FAO and the "Conselleria de Pesca y Asuntos Marítimos de la Xunta de Galicia" have agreed to collaborate in a project for the development of aquaculture in LAC with the objective of improving rural and small-scale aquaculture, through production and training modules, therefore, contributing to the sustainable development of rural and more needed communities in developing countries of the region (GDCP/INT/002/ SPA). Through a very participatory process the inception phase of this project allowed the development of a programme of work in the region to be implemented in the next 4 years.

Climate change implications for fisheries and aquaculture in the region. A relevant regional activity, partially funded by Japan (GCP/INT/253/JPN), only recently initiated, considers the development of country desk studies and a regional overview to illustrate climate change implications for fisheries and aquaculture and the adaptation potential for the sector. The activity will conduct a regional workshop on the subject to be held in April 2011. ■

Further information can be obtained by email from the authors.