

SPADA -The Special Programme for Aquaculture Development in Africa¹

Selected Highlights

Matthias Halwart¹, John Moehl², Mark Prein³ and Jiansan Jia¹

¹Aquaculture Management and Conservation Service (FIMA)
Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, Rome, Italy
Matthias.Halwart@fao.org; Jiansan.Jia@fao.org

²FAO Regional Office for Africa, Accra, Ghana
John.Moehl@fao.org

³FAO Consultant
M.Prein@gmail.com

FAN 39 featured an article on SPADA, the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture (FI) Department's Special Programme on Aquaculture Development in Africa (Moehl *et al.*, 2008) which at the same time constitutes the aquaculture component of the FAO FI's Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (FISA). It described some of the history and background of the programme; outlining the programme's aims, structure and the seven arenas where SPADA is planned to be active in congruence with the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Action Plan for the development of fisheries and aquaculture. Given the relevance of SPADA to building momentum for investment in aquaculture in Africa, this follow-up article takes a closer look at each of the individual arenas and explores how the current field programme (FAO's Technical Cooperation Projects (TCP)), Unilateral Trust Funds (UTF) and extra-budgetary funded projects) addresses these issues. The list is not meant to be exhaustive but rather aims at providing insight into working examples and approaches in the field.

SELECTED ONGOING ACTIVITIES IN SPADA ARENAS

(i) Strengthening institutions and enabling frameworks

SPADA will support national fora and stakeholder consultations that will lead to national aquaculture development strategies, plans and adjusted legal frameworks that enable increased investment and trade within the aquaculture sub-sector. Further, the programme will provide capacity building and advice as to how to efficiently structure aquaculture institutions at all levels including training on a broad spectrum of issues such as aqua-business management, production, aquaculture facilities siting and development, risk assessment and communication.

FAO has supported, and continues to support, the processes to develop national aquaculture development strategies and plans in many African countries including but not limited to Cameroon, The Gambia, Madagascar, Namibia, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Uganda. Cameroon requested the support of FAO for developing the first national strategy. This benchmark document, formulated in May 2003 by a team

of experts representing government agencies, World Fish Center and FAO, was subsequently discussed in stakeholder consultations before being adopted in December 2003. A second request for assistance in the implementation of the strategy is being achieved through TCP/CMR/3103 *Mise en place d'un plan de développement durable de l'aquaculture*). Efforts are continuing to reach as many countries as possible and feasible with existing resources. A key partner in this process is the Japanese-funded *GCP/INT/053/JPN Intra African Training and Dissemination of Technical Know-How for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural development with Africa-ASEAN Cooperation within the Framework of South-South Cooperation* which has capacity building for African aquaculture development under the framework of SPADA as one of its four main focal areas. Through TCP/RAF/3111 *Emergency assistance to combat epizootic ulcerative syndrome in the Chobe-Zambesi River* (involving Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe) and the PCA Norway-funded project on aquatic animal health and aquatic biosecurity, FAO continues to provide capacity building aimed at

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enhancing aquatic biosecurity (e.g. risk analysis, basic aquatic health management, disease surveillance and reporting, etc.).

(ii) Networking and outreach

SPADA will strengthen the nascent Aquaculture Network for Africa (ANAF) building effective links between extension/outreach and producer organizations including local farmer “clusters”. These activities will include publicizing information concerning opportunities in aqua-business to encourage investment in the sub-sector, as well as successful examples of the impact chain from national policies to access to financial and production inputs, farm production, processing and marketing. Websites, discussion fora and use of the latest information and communications technology will facilitate much needed networking and information exchange.

Significantly improved information flow has long been identified as one of the major needs for the sub-sector’s development. In order to achieve this, efficient information channels are necessary at all levels; national, sub-regional and regional. Recent efforts by FAO have been aimed at facilitating the establishment of ANAF on the basis of a decision by the fourteenth session of CIFAA (FAO, 2007). An *ad hoc* Working Group (WG) met in Kribi, Cameroon, in 2007 to establish a workplan incorporating the necessary tasks leading to a formal and legal panAfrican institution: ANAF. Further stakeholder consultations on the network are scheduled to take place in July and August 2008 with the generous assistance of the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ). The *ad hoc* WG will report back to CIFAA in December 2008. Meanwhile, FAO has facilitated an online ANAF stakeholder forum accessible at <http://www.fao.org/fi/fima/anaf-forum/forum.html> and is in the process of establishing an internet-based network similar to the Regional Aquaculture Information System in the Gulf

Region (RAIS) where members can share and access information from the region which is crucial for the development of aquaculture in their own country. These tools assist with improved access to current information. Fractionation of aquaculture programmes at national and regional levels has been a barrier to effective sub-sectoral programming; improved information channels potentially enhancing needed co-ordination. Inherent in the SPADA approach is the improved co-ordination also facilitated by national task forces and steering committees with wide stakeholder representation to guide the development of national programmes.

(iii) Capital and input supply

SPADA will assist in creating an enabling environment for access by investors to critical inputs including, among others, capital, seed and feed. This also includes certification programmes for the suppliers of such inputs as feed and seed to ensure quality and traceability.

An ongoing TCP/SIL/3104 *Assistance to fish farmers* and pipeline TCP/KEN *Strengthening fish production through adoption of improved aquaculture* provide the necessary technical advice and backstopping on the use and application of resource and planning tools in order to establish sustainable, private-sector driven fish farming through pilot sustainable production units that will ensure reliable supply of quality seed and farmer-friendly aquaculture technologies.

GCP/RAF/417/SPA *Aquaculture Investments for Poverty Reduction in the Volta Basin: Creating Opportunities for Low-Income African Fish Farmers through Improved Management of Tilapia Genetic Resources* supports the countries of the Volta Basin in developing responsible policies and practices for using genetically improved strains of Nile tilapia in small- and medium-size enterprises in the area. This sub-regional

project serves as an umbrella for co-ordination to facilitate the establishment of national task forces and other field programmes as well as bringing on board new development partners. One of the efforts is to develop links with the feed industries in an attempt to ensure that, as higher quality seed is available, the corresponding high quality feed will also be accessible.

(iv) Processing and marketing

SPADA will provide guidance as to options, methods and methodologies for processing and marketing including establishing quality control programmes. Adoption of standards and labels along the value chain will improve access to domestic, regional and export markets.

There are many activities undertaken in this regard as it ultimately concerns the consumption of aquatic products from both capture fisheries and aquaculture. A major focus, as underscored in the NEPAD Action Plan, will be intra-regional marketing and trade in aquaculture products including inputs. One example of widely applicable methods for improved fish processing is smoking in specialized ovens (e.g. the Chorkor system) which have been promoted in UTF/NIR/047/NIR *The National Special Food Security Programme, Nigeria*. Another example is the application of a Technological Platform Approach which has been successful in the Republic of Chad where better handling, storage and processing of fish resulted in improved hygiene and sanitation, improving fish quality and value and thus access to urban markets (Diei-Ouadi and Ndiaye, 2008).

(v) Research and education

SPADA will focus on proven technologies, co-ordinating and harmonizing research and education programmes across the region to identify comparative advantages for different research and education institutions. The programme will support regional research and education programmes, match

needs with providers and generally increase the overall efficacy of these operations.

This is an arena that requires special efforts and targeted resources and is likely to be picked up only when ANAF becomes operational. Collaboration is envisaged *inter alia* with the Sustainable Aquaculture Research Networks in Sub-Saharan Africa (SARNISSA). On the education side, it will include capacity building on application of resource and planning tools such as the African Water Resource Database (Jenness *et al.*, 2007).

(vi) Social, economic and environmental soundness

The programme will establish baselines and targets that are conducive for sustainable aqua-businesses as well as determining elements to be considered for pre-investment impact assessments and post-investment monitoring.

In conjunction with TCP projects in Malawi and the East African Community (LVFO), a standard user-friendly model is currently being developed to assist farmers in both pre- and post-investment aspects. On the environmental side, FAO has embarked on “Environmental Impact Assessment and Monitoring in Aquaculture” a component of GCP/INT/936/JPN *Towards sustainable aquaculture: Selected issues and guidelines* being implemented by FIMA under Japanese Government support. The Africa case study covers eight countries across the Region. The project is aimed at addressing key issues of environmental assessment and monitoring in aquaculture with a view to generate strategic advice and technical guidance information for use in policy making, capacity-building and training in the sector.

(vii) Monitoring, evaluation and planning

SPADA will implement regional and national monitoring and evaluation activities including improved and more precise statistical reporting mechanisms. Partners will be supported to access appropriate tools for planning, priority-setting, monitoring and impact assessment.

Current work done by FIMA focuses on the provision of timely and accurate information concerning the use of cultured species (FAO Cultured Aquatic Species), legislation (FAO National Aquaculture Legislation Overviews - NALOs) and overviews on the national aquaculture sector (FAO National Aquaculture Sector Overviews - NASOs). For Africa, information on NASOs and NALOs is currently available for 14 and 4 countries, respectively, and is expected to be consistently maintained and updated in close collaboration with ANAF.

Identification of high potential areas for aquaculture development and the planning and scaling of investments are facilitated through the application of planning tools such as the African Water Resource Database and the Aquaculture Recommendation Domains decision support tool (Kam *et al.*, 2008).

CALL FOR SUPPORT

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