



Photo credit: Heba El-Begawi/WorldFish

FACTSHEET WorldFish in Egypt



Fish is an important food source in Egypt, accounting for **25.3%** of the average household's protein intake. Fish consumption is **23.5 kg/person/year**.

Aquaculture is the primary source of fish production in Egypt. In 2014, aquaculture production was over **1.1 million metric tons**, accounting for around three-quarters of the country's total fish production. In the same year, fisheries production was **344,791 metric tons**. The sector provides employment for **816,000** people (150,000 in the aquaculture value chain and 666,000 in fisheries).

Tilapia is the species most farmed in the country, which has **115,000** hectares of aquaculture ponds. The majority of the country's fish production is consumed in the country, providing the equivalent of one fish per person per week. In 2014, just **28,000 metric tons** of fish was exported.

Research with impact

Since launching its research program in Egypt in 1998, WorldFish has delivered high quality, practical research related to the country's aquaculture and fishery sector. A key research focus has been on improving fish genetics to transform Egypt into a role model for African aquaculture development. WorldFish works closely with aquaculture stakeholders, the private sector and government organizations to deliver research on increasing aquaculture productivity, increasing the flow-on benefits of fish farming to women and youth, and enhancing fish value chains.

Current priorities/initiatives

- Genetic improvement: Further development and dissemination of the Abbassa strain of Nile tilapia and adding resilience to the breeding program
- Feed research: Novel feed ingredients and improved feed efficiency and feeding systems (including best management practice training)
- Fish health: Investigating new disease issues affecting Egyptian fish farms
- Improving fish markets through group-based organization of informal retailers, product development and improved post-harvest handling
- Manage Africa Aquaculture Research and Training Center as a regional center of excellence for genetics research and training in best management practices

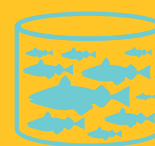


WHY FISH?



Small-scale fisheries production

344,791
metric tons



Aquaculture production







1,137,091
metric tons



Fish consumption per capita

23.5
kg/person/year

Anticipated impacts (by 2022)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.10M producer households adopt improved breeds, aquafeeds, fish health and aquaculture and fisheries management practices
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.26M people, of which at least 50% are women, are assisted to exit poverty through livelihood improvements related to fisheries and aquaculture value chains
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.10M people, of which 50% are women, are without deficiencies of one or more of the following essential micronutrients: iron, zinc, iodine, vitamin A, folate and B12
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and 10% increase in water and nutrient use efficiency in 0.30M tonnes of fish per annum
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.34M more women of reproductive age are consuming an adequate number of food groups
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.11M hectares of ecosystems restored through more productive and equitable management of small-scale fisheries resources and restoration of degraded aquaculture ponds

“ The aquaculture sector has great potential to achieve food security for the Egyptian population. WorldFish has successfully delivered professional training services to both farmers and specialists in Egypt and Africa. Moreover, Egyptian farmers has expressed their happiness towards the role of WorldFish providing them with high-quality fast growing strain of Nile Tilapia, known as the “Abbassa strain”.

- Dr. Ayman Ammar, Director of the Central Laboratory for Aquaculture Research (CLAR), Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation ”

Partners and donors



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RESEARCH PROGRAM ON Fish

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