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FACT SHEET

Increased Sustainability in the Aquaculture Sector in sub-Saharan Africa, through Improved Aquatic Animal Health Management



Background

African aquaculture is growing rapidly. Tilapia and catfish are the two most important farmed fish species on the continent, and in Kenya, specifically, rainbow trout farming has become an important part of the country's aquaculture industry. Compared to salmon and shrimp, little attention and research investments have been made to better understand disease epidemiology and control mechanisms in these cultured fish groups. With increased intensification and the resultant proliferation of fish diseases, many African countries are now realizing the importance of biosecurity governance and of building better aquatic animal health research capacity and management to support sustainable aquaculture. International partnerships and collaboration with expert institutions are one way African countries can transition to developing and implementing better biosecurity measures. To this end, WorldFish and Norwegian Veterinary Institute's expertise can support mutual missions and objectives in Africa in collaboration with African institutions. Together, they will make informed decisions on future investments on the continent to support aquatic animal health management and biosecurity.

Project goals

Increased Sustainability in the Aquaculture Sector in African countries is a regional project on aquatic animal health research and education. Its goal is to increase sustainability and resilience in the aquaculture sector in African countries through improved aquatic animal health management and biosecurity governance. WorldFish and the Norwegian Veterinary Institute (NVI) will use their combined expertise to implement the project in two African countries, Ghana and Kenya, with support from the Fish for Africa Innovation Hub (FAIH) at WorldFish Abbassa in Egypt. Other African countries will benefit from this program as well, through their involvement in different training courses conducted at FAIH, either physically or virtually.



Project

Increased Sustainability in the Aquaculture Sector in sub-Saharan Africa, through Improved Aquatic Animal Health Management: Joint project of WorldFish and Norwegian Veterinary Institute

Donor

- Norwegian Agency for Development and Cooperation (Norad)

Partners

- The College of Basic and Applied Sciences (CBAS) of the University of Ghana
- The College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences (CAVS) of the University of Nairobi

Duration

December 2020–November 2024

Location

Egypt, Ghana, Kenya and other Africa countries

Project components

For this project, WorldFish and the NVI have partnered with the College of Basic and Applied Sciences at the University of Ghana and the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences at the University of Nairobi. Together, they will use their expertise and tap into their international networks and those in African countries to achieve the following higher-level objectives:

- Improve research capacity on aquatic animal health management in African countries.
- Enhance institutional capacity and learners' knowledge and practical skills on aquatic animal health to improve aquaculture-related education services and extension capacity in African countries.
- Share new knowledge on aquatic animal health in aquatic food systems in the framework of One Health and one food systems in African countries through sustainable networking.

Major components/activities

1. **Research.** The project will be anchored in Ghana and Kenya through 12 master's research studentships/theses.

Research activities:

- Identify and address research/knowledge gaps on aquatic animal health management in Ghana and Kenya.
- Ensure that research findings and new knowledge on aquatic animal health are made available to relevant stakeholders (e.g. Department of Fisheries, policymakers, academic institutions, extension agents from the public and private sectors) in Ghana, Kenya and other African countries.

2. **Education.** The project will offer intensive practical training for MSc students to acquire the necessary skills needed for their studies. There is also a need to update education

and capacity building in aquatic animal health for service/extension providers, so intensive training courses at FAIH will be conducted to support many African countries.

Education activities:

- Develop state-of-the-art educational modules on aquaculture and aquatic animal health, and make them available for implementing regular face-to-face and virtual training programs for countries in African countries from WorldFish's FAIH in Abbassa.
 - Make training programs on aquaculture and aquatic animal health management more available and better accessible for countries in African countries.
3. **Networking.** This project will link and leverage ongoing and past projects of WorldFish, the NVI and their partners to strengthen research, education, development, employment, collaboration and policy capacity in African countries.

Networking activities:

- Develop a dynamic and operational networking mechanism to share knowledge on aquatic animal health among African countries.
- Establish effective coordination as well as monitoring, evaluation and learning in order to capture the main highlights/achievements and to share knowledge.

Acknowledgments

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