Introduction

In 2020, WorldFish launched the Promoting Sustainable Cage Aquaculture in West Africa (ProSCAWA) project. ProSCAWA is a two-year project funded by China-IFAD SSTC Facility. ProSCAWA project seeks to increase poor rural people’s productive capacities by enabling them to undertake sustainable aquaculture that will increase productivity of their waterbodies and increases the rural poor people’s benefits through enhanced participation in the aquaculture value chain.

Project goals

The main objective of this project is to empower and transform livelihoods of smallholder farms in West Africa through enhanced Sino-Afro application of knowledge, sustainable technologies and expertise in cage aquaculture. The project will demonstrate and popularise environmentally friendly methods of fish preservation and processing for consumption and storage include improved solar drying, salting, fermenting among others and thus benefit the consumers.

Background

Food insecurity is critical in Africa because 21 out of the 36 global countries currently facing food insecurity and malnutrition are in Africa (UN, 2012). Furthermore, about 235 million of the over 923 million people facing hunger worldwide are in sub-Saharan Africa (FAO, 2008). Ghana and Nigeria are two prominent West African countries that depend on fisheries as major sources of animal protein. In Ghana, fish is the preferred and cheapest source of animal protein and about 75% of the total annual catch in the country is consumed locally (Sarpong et al. 2005). Nigeria is the most populous nation in Africa with almost 186 million people in 2016 (UNICEF 2017). By 2050, Nigeria’s population is expected to grow to a staggering 440 million, which will lead to increased scarcity of resources and land in rural areas. While Ghana has a smaller population, fish supply remains small and has not kept pace with the demand for fish in both Ghana and Nigeria.
### Project components

1. Developed capacity of farmers, policy makers, and businesses for sustainable cage culture farming systems in Nigeria and Ghana.

2. Enhanced employment, incomes and nutritional status of rural households through productive and sustainable cage farming in water bodies.

3. Linkages established between Chinese and West African aquaculture entrepreneurs for transfer of knowledge and development of viable business partnerships.

The project will undertake exchange visits to China for first-hand experience of Chinese success in cage culture and connect to Chinese providers of cage aquaculture implements. On the other hand, the Chinese will come to Africa to train more participants on available new technologies and reach more participants than could be accommodated in the trips abroad.

Refresher training will enable extension officers understand aquaculture principles and new fish production techniques necessary for successful cage culture. Policy dialogues and talk shows will be used for dissemination and awareness creation and offer a platform for advocacy and debates for sustainable cage aquaculture.

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