

# Aquatic Foods for Healthy People and Planet



## A Summary of our 2030 Research and Innovation Strategy



## A PERSPECTIVE FOR THE FUTURE

Harnessing the untapped potential of aquatic foods for sustainable development

### WHY NOW?

#### Responding to Change

Aquatic foods (animals and plants grown or harvested from water for food or feed) provide micronutrient-rich foods for 3.3 billion people and support the livelihoods of over 120 million. However, inadequate management and competing demands for aquatic foods by wealthier consumers threatens access to food for low-income consumers as well as food and income for the majority of small-scale actors in wild-caught aquatic food systems.

Aquatic foods offer a viable source of nutritious and sustainable food that is traditionally overlooked in the global agricultural and food research agenda. Solutions to improve the sustainability of aquatic food systems must integrate environmental, social, economic and technological dimensions, and their interactions with other sectors and interests such as agriculture, water, nutrition, energy communications, nature conservation, tourism and transport.

Aquatic foods could deliver more to human nutrition, livelihoods, and environmentally sustainable agrifood systems if research-for-development investments are made in natural resource management and delivery and uptake of innovations throughout aquatic foods supply chains.

#### A Transformative Agenda for Research on Aquatic Food Systems

Transforming food systems to deliver healthy and sustainable diets is imperative if we are to meet the needs of all within planetary boundaries. Aquatic food

systems are an extremely important but historically undervalued component of the global food system.

Aquatic food systems are critical to meet the increasing challenges of adapting to and mitigating climate change, and eliminating hunger, malnutrition, poverty, social inequality, and environmental degradation. To fully realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development the current ways of producing, distributing and consuming food must change.

By 2030, WorldFish's intention is to expand our geographical footprint in key countries and communities in Africa, Asia, the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean: working alongside national agricultural research institutions and relevant government ministries; supporting and strengthening local capacities and skills for scientific research, data as well as research-to-policy program development, management and implementation; and shaping discourse, policy and practices for sustainable development at the regional level.

Our transformational agenda for research on aquatic food systems focusses on three main areas of impact that are important: (1) Climate resilience and environmental sustainability (2) Social and economic inclusion, especially for women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and landless people, and (3) Nutrition and public health.

Our primary focus are the many women, men and young people engaged in small-scale fisheries and aquaculture as producers, consumers of aquatic foods, and workers and business owners in related supply chains.

	(1) Climate resilience and environmental sustainability	(2) Social and economic inclusion	(3) Nutrition and public health
<b>Strategic Research Objective</b>	Discover, develop, test, adapt and promote science-based innovations, technologies and practices that reduce climate risk and meet nature and biodiversity conservation targets through sustainable use and management of aquatic resources.	Generate compelling scientific evidence that persuades critical decision-makers and market actors at all levels to implement inclusive policies and investments in aquatic food systems for shared prosperity and well-being.	Advance and increase scientific knowledge and public awareness and understanding of the nutrition, safety and health benefits of aquatic foods.
<b>Priorities for Action</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Enable sustainable production of diverse aquatic foods</li> <li>2. Cut down on loss and waste</li> <li>3. Enhance climate resilience and reduce greenhouse gas emissions</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Leave no one behind with an inclusive and people centered aquatic food systems</li> <li>2. Improve the availability, accessibility and affordability of aquatic foods for all</li> <li>3. Support sustainable livelihoods, decent work and well-being</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Inform consumer demand for healthy and nutritious aquatic foods</li> <li>2. Ensure aquatic foods are safe and healthy for human consumption</li> <li>3. Prioritize nutrition and health for vulnerable and marginalized people</li> </ol>

## A Change Agenda for Organizational Transformation

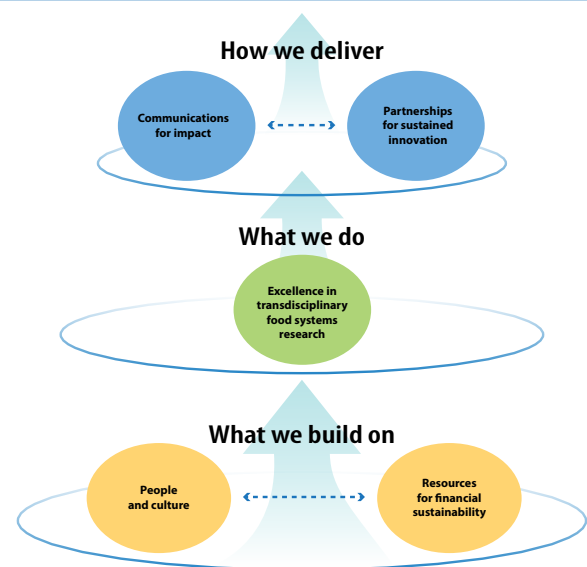
We are transforming our organization to deliver this ambitious agenda from an integrated food systems perspective.

Through 2030 we will continue to grow as a world-class research and innovation organization that creates, advances and translates scientific research on aquatic food systems. As an organization focused on scaling innovations through national, regional and global innovation systems we see aquatic food sector actors in the Global South as critical drivers of demand and key innovation partners.

Our new business model and strategy imagine how we will operate in the next decade to successfully manage uncertainty and deliver this transformation. Our strategy explicitly goes beyond a research agenda by considering how all elements of our organisation work together to deliver this impact through five key organisational enablers (Figure 1).

At WorldFish we believe transdisciplinary and cross-sector collaboration is at the heart of scientific discovery and the formulation of innovative solutions for tackling complex problems of great significance to human well-being and environmental sustainability. We have a strong legacy of working in partnership with a broad range of actors – including the wider scientific and policy communities – who play an important role in co-creating demand driven research and translating scientific data and evidence into action and impact.

<b>Mission</b>	To end hunger and advance sustainable development by 2030 through science and innovation to transform food, land and water systems with aquatic foods for healthy people and planet.		
<b>Vision</b>	An inclusive world of healthy, well nourished people and a sustainable blue planet, now and in the future.		
<b>Impact areas</b>	Climate and the environment	Society and the economy	Nutrition and public health



**Figure 1.** Delivering our strategy together through our organizational enablers.

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