

OPTIMIZING BENEFITS FROM THE EGYPTIAN FARMED FISH VALUE CHAIN

ISSUES

Egyptians need secure employment and affordable food supplies to thrive and prosper.

Egyptian aquaculture is booming, yet greater fish quality and effective industry support are still needed.

A value chain approach is helping research and development partners overcome barriers to sustainable growth.

THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF EGYPTIAN AQUACULTURE

- Egyptian Nile tilapia has a history of cultivation stretching back 4,000 years to the time of the Pharaohs.
- Domestic aquaculture provides almost 65% of Egypt's total fish consumption and is its lowest cost animal protein source.
- Increases in Egyptian aquaculture production place it as one of the top 10 aquaculture producers in the world.
- Over 100,000 people (around 50% youth) are employed in Egyptian aquaculture and related activities.

OPPORTUNITIES

- More jobs can be created through intensification of production on existing fish farms and developing added value processing.
- Aquaculture production has reached almost 1 million tonnes annually, yet underexploited markets and opportunities to replace imports remain.
- Value chain efficiency can be achieved by improving fish quality, management practices, standards, policy environment and industry organization.

IMPACT

- Increasing aquaculture production by 10% will lead to 10,000 additional jobs in areas with few alternative employment opportunities.
- Support for women fish traders and development of pro-poor aquaculture will help to secure livelihoods for vulnerable households.
- Aquaculture will play an even more important strategic role, providing domestically produced, affordable and nutritious food for all.

ACTIONS NEEDED

Best management practice training for fish farmers and others involved in the aquaculture value chain.

Develop improved policy environment that recognizes the importance of aquaculture as a strategic food production sector.

Improve quality standards to enable greater market access and additional opportunities for added value processing.

Identify and exploit opportunities for poor people to benefit from growth of this dynamic sector.