RESEARCH PROGRAM ON Livestock and Fish

CGIAR

Value Chain for Farmed Fish

Inputs

Seed

Breeding centers improve target species through selective breeding that result in productivity gains for farmers. Multiplication centers and hatcheries use these breeds to produce fry and fingerlings for farmers.

Feed

Feed supplements natural food production in smallholder ponds or provides complete nutritional requirements in more commercial operations. Feed is usually the single greatest cost to farmers.

Extension Services

Participatory development of technologies, capacity building and access to information on markets, prices and technologies are necessary to improve productivity and profits.

Financing

Smallholders and small and medium enterprises require ready access to affordable credit in order to purchase seed and feed and maintain healthy fish ponds.

Production

Producers

Small and medium scale commercially oriented fish farmers constitute the core of the value chain delivering more quality fish by and for the poor.

Processing and Distribution

Processors

Fish is a highly perishable commodity. In the absence of ice, it has to be sold quickly. Smoking, drying or salting will extend shelf-life and, if done to meet quality standards, improve food safety.

Distributors

Traders and wholesalers play a major role in the value chain by accumulating products and selling them to markets, retailers, and restaurants. Small-scale producers, who tend not to produce much or who are in remote locations, cannot always themselves access markets directly.

Marketing

Retailers and Food Service Providers

In domestic supply chains, fish is commonly sold by retailers to consumers in local wet markets. Other retailers include supermarkets and hypermarkets at home and abroad. An additional key outlet for fish is food service providers such as restaurants, schools and hospitals.

Consumption

Consumers

Fish is the dominant animal source food for many poor in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. For some, fish comprises up to 75% of their daily protein intake and is an essential source of vitamins and micro-nutrients such as calcium, vitamin A, iron, and zinc. Farmed fish is an increasingly important means of meeting food and nutrition needs.

Fish farmers'experiences with fish production and sales translate into changes in the demands for certain inputs

Fish demand and purchasing power influence the types of fish farmed

Retailers and food service providers communicate information on consumer preferences to processors, traders, and wholesalers

Consumer purchasing decisions influence what products retailers and food service providers sell

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