

Country perspectives: envisioning outcomes from AABS and getting there

To begin giving shape to the AABS action plan in countries, AABS country groups came together to discuss their desired outcomes for the project and the knowledge and pathways that would be effective to realize their vision. Some of the key points raised by country groups include the following:

Bangladesh

- There is a need for and immense value in increasing awareness about the importance of small-scale fisheries for nutrition and livelihoods. Demos, training materials, policy briefs and behavior change campaigns targeting various actors can be effective, as mapped in Figure 2.
- Partnering with advocacy groups can help lobby for more aquatic foods in school meal programs, such as integrating fish powder or seaweed to increase nutrition, while at the same time creating a new market.

“ 10 years ago, no one ate mud crabs or squid in Bangladesh. Now squid is worth more than fish in some places.

This new seafood demand creation was driven by successful policy influence and awareness campaigns to promote the nutritional benefits and livelihood opportunities in this sector.

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Kenya

- The goal of enhancing sustainable production among small-scale fish workers must address both conservation and livelihood objectives for small-scale fish workers.
- Locally organized beach management units (BMUs) are a key capacity development target for better fishery capture data management, enabling improved surveillance and sustainable catches. An effective channel for capacity development of BMUs could be the annual fishers forum.



- Deep water farming techniques could be explored to increase seaweed production to address warming of reef waters. Pilot farms, demos and manuals could be developed as outreach to BMUs and communities.
- Careful gender-sensitive and locally contextualized design will be important, for example, the shifting of mariculture to deeper waters may exclude women and its fit may vary depending on the setup of different coastal communities.

Mozambique

- Solutions are needed to reduce fish waste and add value at the community level.
- There's a need for greater advocacy for more private sector investments in small-scale fisheries, as only a tiny percentage of its potential is currently being tapped into.

“ Fishermen have no ice to conserve their fish on the boat and half is lost due to sun exposure even before it arrives on land.”

”

Nigeria

- There is a need to focus on sustainable job creation and youth engagement through private sector investments in small-scale fisheries and aquaculture sectors.
- Increasing capacity for developing a business plan and feasibility study is essential to secure financial investments and develop sustainable small enterprises in aquatic foods.

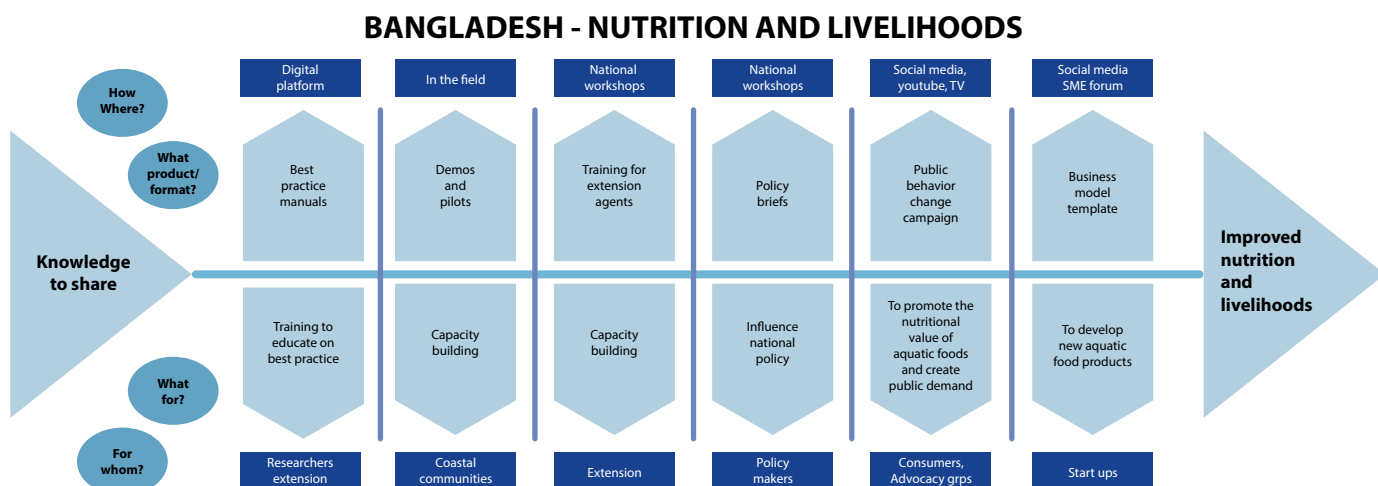


Figure 2. Knowledge sharing tools presented by the Bangladesh group.

- Youth engagement is a critical component to support viable models and attract financial institutes to invest. During the workshop, knowledge sharing opportunities between countries were identified.

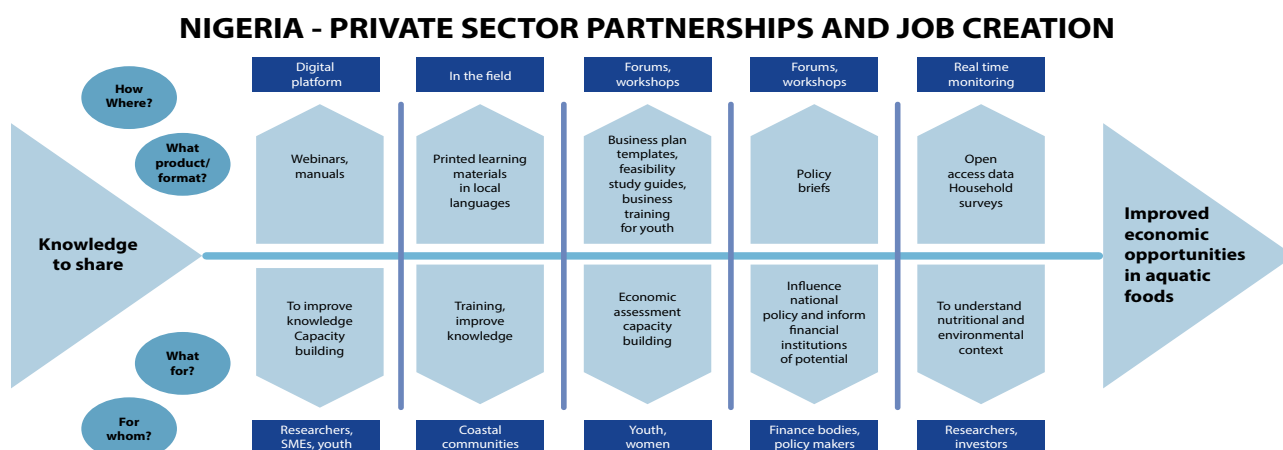


Figure 3. Knowledge sharing tools presented by the Nigeria group.

Tanzania

- As a starting point, there is a need for an extensive scoping survey to understand the potential of fisheries and aquaculture in the country.
- A fish value chain study must be conducted to highlight the challenges of food loss and waste and to map out ongoing initiatives, knowledge gaps and what is needed to be done.

↕ Bangladesh Tanzania	'We have empty hatcheries. We need the expertise from Asia on sea cucumbers and crab. Bangladesh uses affordable technology that could work in Africa.'
↕ Solomon Islands Kenya	'We have 12 hours of sunlight, a huge untapped potential for solar energy. We are interested in the solar freezer experience as post harvest losses are huge.'
↕ Nigeria Bangladesh Kenya	'How do we transfer the Bangladesh seaweed technology to Nigeria? Our women seaweed cooperatives would also be interested in the soap-making experience from Kenya.'

Recommendations

Facilitate knowledge exchange within and between AABS work packages

At country and project levels, AABS partners need to structure knowledge exchange not only within each of its four work packages but also between them. It means, for instance, identifying cross-cutting topics of action (e.g., between work package 1 and 2, how to capture data for nutrition value loss from catch to markets and the need for gender-disaggregated

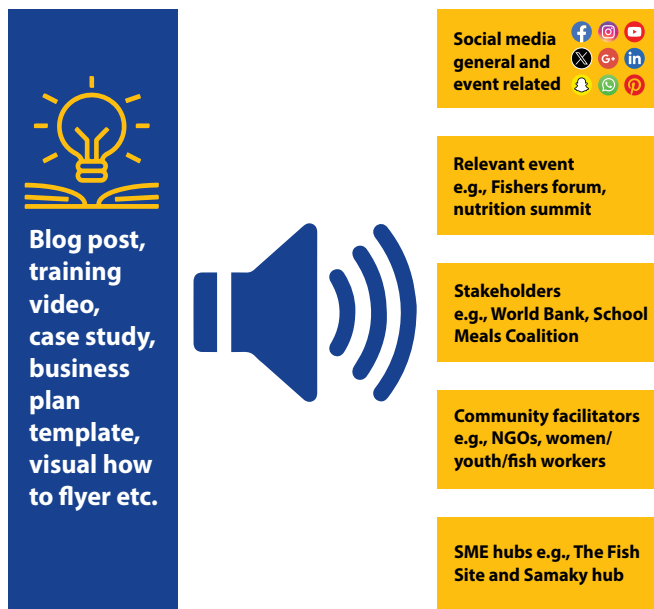
datasets for all work packages) and common field sites of testing and learning where possible. One case study could have different angles for knowledge generation, including past project failures. For example, the solar freezer pilot in the Solomon Islands could be a case study for user-centered design, ensuring sustainability, women empowerment and the importance of capacity development of grassroots groups.

Knowledge exchange across work packages			
Gender roles in fisheries/mariculture and household nutrition/ livelihoods How to integrate end-user feedback, e.g., user-generated content		Nutrition loss along value chain (work packages 1 and 3) Ideas for added value at the community level and demand creation (work packages 1, 2 and 3) Mapping grant opportunities for local pilots	
Work package 1 Digital Coasts	Work package 2 Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture (IMTA)	Work package 3 Climate-Smart Technologies for Reducing Aquatic Food Loss and Waste	Work package 4 Incentives for Coastal Conservation Fisheries Management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fishing data capture scoping studies How to harmonize databases and ontology Lessons learned from Peskas – digital technology transfer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business plans, feasibility and market study templates for youth/women IMTA case studies and webinars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aquatic food value chain analysis 'How to' scoping, demos, webinars, etc. for solar and clean technology innovation transfer (freezer, drying, smoking etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Situation analysis Case studies highlighting impact, trade-offs of conservation vs consumption

Figure 4. Avoiding work package silos - examples of topics for learning within and between work packages.

Amplify AABS knowledge products

- Map which AABS partners are active in influential social media and/or knowledge platforms (e.g., LinkedIn, YouTube, The Fish Site) and professional networks (e.g., COFI). Increase AABS outreach by promoting new knowledge products on these channels.
- Monitor and contribute to relevant discussions and interact with comments.
- Identify who could do stakeholder intelligence (e.g., help connect with relevant or complementary initiatives in target countries or grant opportunities).
- Leverage existing bilateral policy dialogues between AABS countries.
- Develop collaboratively and share a calendar of key events at the country, regional and global level to anticipate where AABS should showcase their best impact stories and knowledge products.



Explore existing knowledge exchange tools and platforms used by AABS partners

So not to start from scratch, WorldFish and AABS partners should discuss which existing knowledge platforms and digital tools could be used by the project:

- Aquadata to share impact stories and project progress.
- Learn.ink app - currently used for fish disease management, it enables the development of training modules accessible on smartphones for extension workers and fish farmers. Explore community-level training videos on best practices e.g., those developed by Digital Green.

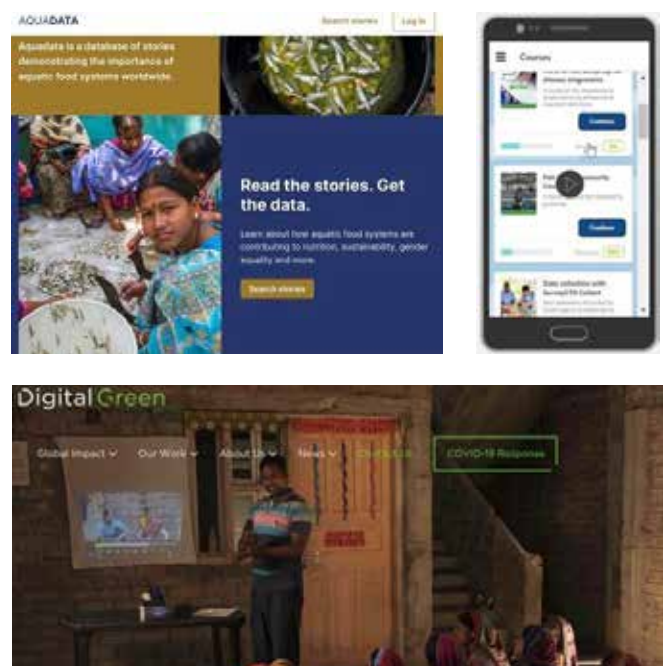


Figure 5. Examples of knowledge platforms that could be used by AABS members.

About WorldFish

WorldFish is a leading international research organization and a member of CGIAR, working to reduce hunger, malnutrition, and poverty by sustainably improving aquatic food systems. It collaborates with international, regional, and national partners to co-develop and deliver scientific innovations, evidence for policy, and knowledge to enable equitable, inclusive impact for millions who depend on fish for their livelihoods. www.worldfishcenter.org

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