



RCE AFRICA –REPORT OCTOBER 2008 TO SEPTEMBER 2009

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Introduction

Agriculture is the primary source of livelihood for about 65 percent of Africans representing 30–40 percent of Africa's GDP and accounting for almost 60 percent of Africa's export income. Since small-scale farms account for more than 90 percent of Africa's agricultural production and are dominated by the poor, AquaFish development platforms emphasize that Aquaculture interventions must be centered on the small farmer. Elimination of chronic poverty requires mechanisms to manage the risk, vulnerability and other constraints that undercut the nutritional, health and educational investments needed to bolster the human capital of the next generation and break the inequitable inter-generational transmission of poverty. Within this context, the pathway taken by AquaFish is poverty alleviation and food security improvement through sustainable aquaculture development and aquatic resources management.

The Aquaculture and Fisheries CRSP is committed to directing at least 25% of its total budget to support the Presidential Initiative to End Hunger in Africa (IEHA) launched in 2002. This is a multi-year effort designed to help increase agricultural income and fulfill the United Nations' Millennium Development Goal. This initiative focuses on promoting agricultural growth and building an African-led partnership to cut hunger and poverty by investing in agriculture oriented toward small-scale farmers. The six countries currently included in IEHA are Kenya, Ghana, Mali, Mozambique, Uganda and Zambia.

The AquaFish CRSP Strategy for Achieving Development Impact focuses on Research, capacity building, information dissemination, and IEHA country involvement. Focal areas included in this report cut across, improving nutrition and health, maximizing water, soil quality and productivity, advancing IPM practices, broadening market access, increasing incomes, and improving food quality, processing, and safety. This is building on the Expert Panel meeting held in Nairobi in 2002 funded by ACRSP that opened the way for collaboration among Africa



countries and US institutions. During this meeting, various scientists discussed and agreed on a set of priorities for aquaculture development in Africa.

Presently Aquafish CRSP is focused on complementary themes in different IEHA countries as shown in:

- Kenya –Focus is now on marketing and conservation of endemic fish species
- Tanzania – Production technology and technology transfer
- Ghana – Fish feed, environmental impact assessment for cage culture on Lake Volta and marketing
- Mali – Aquatic Resource use and conservation for sustainable freshwater aquaculture and fisheries
- Uganda -Hydrology, Water Harvesting, and Watershed Management for Food Security, Income, and Health: Small Impoundments for Aquaculture and Other Community Uses

RCE Responsibility

The role of the Regional Centers of Excellence (RCE) is to build community among all CRSP participants; identify potential additional partnerships with the public and private sector, NGOs, USAID, and others; and bridge the knowledge gap from local-regional perspectives to global development outcomes.

Dissemination Strategy

Aquaculture & Fisheries CRSP research investments require well coordinated and managed dissemination strategies. Capacity building is critical to an effective dissemination strategy. The AquaFish CRSP targeted four general audiences for its dissemination strategy, each requiring different levels of investment and approaches for effective communication. Within this period, RCE established linkages with, FAO, NEPAD/COMESA, ANAF, and SARNISSA among other stakeholders.

The key interventions were to:

1. provide technical advice on emerging issues and gaps from a regional perspectives
2. develop useful materials for missions and other regional stakeholders and end users
3. gauge opportunities for collaboration based on regional and national needs
4. coordinate synthesize and report on activities related to IEHA goals
5. additional responsibilities based on leader with Associate Award

We achieved the interventions through:



1. Advancing Aquafish CRSP research and extension technologies and practices in Mali, Uganda, Ghana, Malawi, Tanzania and South Africa
2. Setting up forward working interpretations to facilitate various aquaculture tasks in the region particularly with regards to ANAF, and SPADA as special programmes for Aquaculture development in Africa
3. Carrying out efforts to source leverage funds from USAID mission, CIDA and government Ministries
4. Developing further linkages with World Fish centre and FAO to complement Aquafish CRSP research and extension efforts in IEHA countries

Technical Advice

RCE facilitated Networking with US scientists interested in African aquaculture at WAS and regional meetings through:

- Personal contacts/relationships
- Through HC PI networking
- ACRSP match making

RCE facilitated regional Networking by:

- Developing posters in English and French for Malians under the Mali Associate Award
- Developing a fish farmers' manual in English
- Developing aquaculture fact sheets and teaching modules
- Facilitating information exchange and proposal writing

End-users – Technology transfer is frequently more efficient if end-users can see firsthand the results of novel technologies and management strategies. CRSP AquaFish Mali Project participants used on-farm trials wherever possible to expedite the adoption of results and technologies. This was done under current projects in Ghana, Kenya, Mali Uganda and Tanzania

Host Country decision makers, researchers, educators and extension agents – Host Country decision makers will were engaged so that aquaculture and fisheries policies incorporate relevant research findings. They in turn invited us to participate in local stakeholder meetings, AquaFish CRSP Regional Centers of Excellence, and end-user workshops to provided input on research directions while also accessing up-to-date information on research and outreach activities from government agencies and other stakeholders (see ANAF meeting, in Uganda, and stake holder workshop photos).

USAID – USAID personnel Kenya and Mali were informed of the option to received AquaFish CRSP publications, including *Aquanews*, Annual Administrative and Technical Reports, manuals, fact sheets, etc. to keep the Mission properly informed of AquaFish CRSP activities. The AquaFish USAID personnel were also be invited to participate in planning and assessment meetings to remain completely informed of progress and constraints facing the Project.

Other Stakeholders – Where possible, efforts will be made to inform stakeholders on the need to preserve or conserve watershed to the benefits of communities that derive their livelihood from such resources.

Cross-cutting Theme: Biodiversity Conservation and Environmental Impact

The proposal recognizes that fragile environments require careful management to maximize benefits for people without overexploiting the resources upon which they depend for future sustainability. RCE in Africa engaged policy makers in discussing the need to implement the aquaculture economic stimulus package in Kenya in a responsible manner without polluting the environment.

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Developed Proposal submitted for Research and Leverage funding

- Kenya, South Africa linked with Brazil and wrote a proposal in August 2008. Funds for this project have been release and activities have began
- Developed an urban and peri-urban proposal with University of Stirling and three NGOs (submitted on September 1st 2008)
- Basic Research to facilitate Expansion of Aquaculture in Developing (BREAD) regions of Brazil and Kenya using indigenous and local resources – NSF –Gates foundation
- ASARECA - Enhancing fish farmer – led enterprise for sustainable productivity and livelihoods in East Africa
- Inkubate LTD – K-Rep project- To undertake Market Research and profiling of Agribusiness Sectors in Kenya.
- ASCU/17/08-09 Functional Analysis of the Ministry of Fisheries Development
- Research-into-Use Programme- Call for ‘Best Bets’ Concept Notes: Agricultural Development in East and Central Africa

- **Working with stakeholders in training programs (Universities and tertiary colleges in Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Zambia, and Tanzania,)**
 - Farmers’ training
 - Extension agents’ training
 - Student training

Working with government officials

Contacts in Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Uganda and Tanzania

We have established links and contacts with senior government officers in these countries

- In Ghana, We are working with FAO Africa Representative John Moehl on information exchange.
- In Kenya we are in close collaboration with The Ministry of Fisheries Development and have been invited to several meetings to discuss the Aquaculture stimulus programme and the Aquaculture development plan
- In Tanzania, the Principal fisheries Officer is a member of ANAF and
- In Uganda we have established linkage with Kajanssi Research centre and the Uganda Commissioner for fisheries who attended the BOMOSA conference in September 2009.



USAID Missions

In Mali USAID working with the mission on the Leader with Associate, award project on “Aquatic Resource use and Conservation for Sustainable Fresh water Aquaculture and Fisheries”

In Kenya, we have worked with USAID Mission through Kenya Business Development Services (KBDS) and recent discussions on future collaboration were held during the visit by Dr. Kwamena Quagraine in June 2009 when he visited the USAID mission office.

NGOs and IGOs

Established contacts with John Moehl, FAO Regional Office, Ghana

Have established communication with NEPAD and Comesa through Dr. Sloans Chimatiro, Senior Fisheries Advisor, NEPAD Secretariat, South Africa

Established contact with Fish Africa, Dr. Koffi

Citadel of Hope and WIFIP are local NGOs that we are working with

NEWS FLASH

[New Aquaculture Initiative for Kenya's Western Province](#)

KENYA - Western Province is set to benefit from a new fish farming plan to boost local incomes and provide employment. An initiative to expand fishing in Western province will be unveiled next week as part of the national economic stimulus package, a
Category: [Fish News](#) - Wednesday, October 14, 2009

[Minister Announces Aquaculture Projects](#)

KENYA - The Fisheries Minister has launched a fisheries economic stimulus programme for district fisheries officers from Eastern and Central provinces. **Kenya** has about 1.4 billion hectares of potential fish farming areas, according to Fisheries Minis
Category: [Fish News](#) - Monday, September 07, 2009

[Nairobi Develops Aquaculture Plan](#)

KENYA - The government is working on a strategic plan that will help regulate and boost aquaculture research and development in the country. Although the government has allocated funds for the sector through the ministry of fisheries development, a
Category: [Fish News](#) - Tuesday, August 25, 2009

[Big Fish Farm Plans Emerge in Kenya](#)

KENYA - The government is shifting focus to fish farming to increase food security and boost earnings. With dwindling fish stocks in lakes and other water bodies, the country is seeking to boost production from 4,220 metric tonnes to 11 million ton
Category: [Fish News](#) - Wednesday, August 19, 2009

[Kenya Plans to Put Ten Million in Fisheries Sector](#)

KENYA - In a new policy change aimed at boosting the fishing sector, the government plans to construct a fish port at Lamu, revamp aquaculture and fish farming centres across the country and expand the fisheries department. "The government will
Category: [Fish News](#) - Wednesday, April 08, 2009

[Kenya Foresees Rapid Aquaculture Advancement](#)

KENYA - **Kenya** expects an increase in from fish farming from four metric tonnes to about 25 metric tonnes in the next five years as aquaculture plays a central role in fish production. According to a news report from the **Kenya** Broadcasting Corporation
Category: [Fish News](#) - Wednesday, March 25, 2009

[North Rift Farmers Take to Aquaculture](#)

KENYA - What began like a hobby is slowly but surely growing into a lucrative business, as North Rift residents embrace fish farming as an alternative source of income. Traditionally, residents relied heavily on maize and wheat farming, besides dairy
Category: [Fish News](#) - Monday, March 02, 2009

[Fish Ponds Growing in Meru Region](#)

KENYA - People in the Meru region of **Kenya** are learning a new method of building fish ponds around their homes not only to have a better balanced recipe but also to generate some income.

Institutions such as churches and health centres have also taken to farming fish

Category: [Fish News](#) - Tuesday, December 23, 2008

[Uganda's Black Market: Victoria Running Low on Fish](#)

UGANDA - Illegal trade and overfishing in Lake Victoria have led to fish scarcities in **Uganda**, Kenya and Tanzania. Large quantities of illegally traded unprocessed fish, especially Nile perch and tilapia, may be finding their way to export markets

Category: [Fish News](#) - Monday, January 19, 2009

[Large-Scale Aquaculture Beginning in Uganda's North](#)

UGANDA - Eastern and northern **Uganda** are set to become leading fishing regions, the fisheries state minister has said. Fred Mukisa said the Ugandan Government was planning to stimulate large-scale fish farming in the area in the next financial year,

Category: [Fish News](#) - Wednesday, June 24, 2009

[Minister Advocates Fish Farming](#)

UGANDA - People should invest in fish farming to reduce dependence on lakes, fisheries state minister has advised. The Minister, Fred Mukisa, said the Government is working with its counterparts in East Africa to protect the lake, regulate fishing and

Category: [Fish News](#) - Friday, January 02, 2009

[Fish Farmers Want GM Stocks](#)

UGANDA - Fish farmers in **Uganda** have called on the government to allow imports of genetically-modified (GM) tilapia to boost the falling fish numbers in local waters According to the news agency All Africa, Tugumisirize Digo, a fish farmer with Sunfish

Category: [Fish News](#) - Tuesday, June 10, 2008

[AGA Invests \\$.5m In Aquaculture](#)

GHANA - ANGLOGOLD ASHANTI (AGA), the largest Gold mining company in the Ghana, has invested \$550,000 in an ultra-modern aquaculture project at Humasi, a small farming community in the Obuasi in the Ashanti Region

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

Behind the drapes what happens!!

The excitement that follows after turning in a project proposal on time is like watching a successful NASA expedition!

Read this:

Dear colleagues,

After much broad-based engagement across nine time zones, sharing one website, 107 emails, several face-to-face meetings – some very long phone calls, heroic efforts from those in the field, much debate, negotiation and no small amount of word-smithing – I am delighted to say that the Farm Africa led consortium bid for the RIU best bets call has been delivered on schedule.

It's been a pleasure getting to know everyone. It appears that FA (contact: George Mukkath) should hear back on this later this month, so that if successful we can re-engage on developing a business plan and on pitching our ideas to a 'Dragon's Den' of independent arbiters in Nairobi in November.

In the meantime thanks again to everyone for all the excellent inputs and efforts.

Best regards,

Graham Haylor

New Aquaculture Initiative for Kenya's Western Province

KENYA - Western Province is set to benefit from a new fish farming plan to boost local incomes and provide employment.

An initiative to expand fishing in Western province will be unveiled next week as part of the national economic stimulus package, according to [All Africa](#).

Fisheries minister, Paul Otuoma, said that the sector is poorly developed in Western province, which has huge potential for rearing fish.

Fishing is only practised on a commercial scale in Budalang'i and Funyula constituencies, which border Lake Victoria. Between them, they generate about 300 million shillings (KES).

The 24 constituencies in the province are now earmarked to benefit from the fish farming plan that targets 4,800 fish ponds being dug in the region to raise different fish species.

This, the minister said, would help boost fish production in the province in order to more fully

harness its potential.

"We are highly endowed with wetlands that are not being properly utilised and that could help in fish rearing," he added.

The project is expected to create 50,000 jobs in the province.

Dr Otuoma said fish farming would also open up other opportunities for the province's residents such as fish feed production and rearing of fish fingerlings.

He estimated that up to 16 million fish fingerlings would be required initially for the fish stimulus programme.

The need for cold storage facilities is also set to increase substantially in parts of Western Kenya as a result.

A team from the fisheries ministry is currently on a trip to Indonesia where fish farming has transformed fish production in the last four years, from one million tonnes in 2004, to seven million tonnes at present. Dr Otuoma said such trips would inform local initiatives in the province to boost fish production.

Analysts say that the ongoing expansion of the Kisumu Airport raises the market prospects of fish raised in the province.

Several fish processing factories would also come up in the region, thus creating several employment opportunities.

Estimates by the fisheries ministry indicate that Kenya has about 1.4 billion hectares of potential fish farming areas. From these, the country could generate KES 750 billion from the sale of fish.

All Africa reports that, at present, Kenya relies largely on fish netted from its water bodies, with little effort being made towards aquaculture. The country's fish production stands at 4,220 tonnes. *TheFishSite News Desk*

Currently there are FAO/ TCP aquaculture projects going on in Uganda, Kenya and Ghana.

The Ghana project is listed here as an example.

“Aquaculture Investments for Poverty Reduction in the Volta Basin: Creating Opportunities for Low-Income African Fish Farmers through Improved Management of Tilapia Genetic Resources – Regional Project GCP/RAF/417/SPA”



Appendix: ACRONYMS and ABBREVIATIONS

GDP = Gross Domestic Product

NEPAD = New Partnership for Africa's Development

FAO = Food and Agriculture Organization (of the United Nations)

GOM = Government of Mali

CRSP = Collaborative Research Support Program

ACRSP = Aquaculture Collaborative Research Support Program

AquaFish CRSP = Aquaculture and Fisheries Collaborative Research Support Program

HC = Host Country (Mali)

AIT = Asian Institute of Technology (Bangkok, Thailand)

ECOWAS = Economic Community of West Africa

MLFD = Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Development

BMP = Best Management Practice

IPM = Integrated Pest Management

DNP = Direction Nationale de la Pêche

NGO = Non Governmental Organization

ODRS = Office de Développement Rural de Sélingué

FFFS = Fisheries Farmers' Field Schools