



# AQUACULTURE FOR FOOD SECURITY, LIVELIHOOD AND NUTRITION IN SIERRA LEONE

Fish accounts for about 80 percent of the protein needs of the people of Sierra Leone, with barely 20 percent provided by the livestock sector. Marine fish stocks continue to be exploited by both small-scale fishing units and industrial trawlers, but the overfishing of some commercially exploited fish stocks has led to a decline in marine fish stocks, with adverse effects on the overall nutrition status of the population. The limited availability of both marine and freshwater fish is a major challenge for the Government and action must be taken if the goals of improved fish supply and food security are to be achieved. The promotion of sustainable aquaculture was recognized as a response to the decline in national fish supplies. In this regard, the Government approached FAO for technical assistance. The project aimed to improve aquaculture production by providing assistance to smallholder farmers in communities and groups of fish farmers through empowerment and capacity-building, the provision of inputs, the strengthening of extension services for fish farming and the pilot production of local fish feed.



## WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The expected project outcome was the improved capacity of rural communities to establish and manage fishponds. To this end, the project constructed 40 fishponds and provided a total of 80 beneficiaries with training in their establishment and management. As the major source of protein in the country is fish, the project contributed significantly to increasing the amount of fish available, improving access to reasonably priced fish and fish products. This ensured that beneficiaries consumed fish and its products in quantities that would contribute to their nutrition status and that would have a positive impact on the health of the population, as well as improving their productivity. The project also contributed to improving livelihoods by providing a source of income for individuals and groups of people within the communities.

## IMPACT

The project introduced aquaculture development by providing inputs and training to rural fish farmers such as Mrs Sallay Kamara, who took part in three days of professional training in fish farming. She learned about water quality management and its importance to the survival of fish, which helped her to reduce mortality and increase growth rates. She also learned about fish farming as a business. She said: "I always spent my money for my fishes, but I never knew if I was making a profit. Now I track my expenses every day and I know how to manage my farm to be profitable since I can now reduce mortality and increase the growth rate of my fish."

## KEY FACTS

### Contribution

USD 342 000

### Duration

February 2015 – December 2017

### Resource Partner

FAO

### Partners

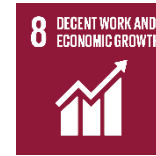
Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR); Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security

### Beneficiaries

Rural households involved in aquaculture

# ACTIVITIES

- Training manual in fish farming developed.
- A three-day training course in fish farm management held for 80 participants from the four project districts.
- A total of 40 fishponds, each of 400 m<sup>2</sup>, constructed in the four project districts and allocated to secondary schools, farmers' groups, Agricultural Business Centres, individual farmers and city councils.
- A total of 32 000 fingerlings of catfish and tilapia provided to stock all 40 fishponds (800 per fishpond).
- Assistance provided to World Fish in the rehabilitation of Makali aquaculture station.
- Fish feed machine procured for the production of good-quality fish feed.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

**Project Code**  
TCP/SIL/3502

**Project Title**  
Sustainable Aquaculture for Food Security,  
Livelihood and Nutrition Project

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