



PROMOTING AQUACULTURE AND EMPLOYMENT IN LIBERIA

Decades of turmoil and civil conflict have had a crippling effect on Liberia’s agricultural sector, and increasingly rapid growth in youth migration to urban areas has led to high youth unemployment and urban poverty. Agriculture is the sector with the greatest potential to increase livelihoods and combat youth unemployment, which can also help to slow rapid urbanization rates. The objective of the project was to economically empower youth by promoting the creation of aquaculture enterprises for youth employment, poverty reduction and food security.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project established aquaculture parks, ponds and fish hatcheries and provided training and capacity building to young people for aquaculture production and pond management practices. Courses on team building, business management and fisheries science were held and operators were trained in brood stock and hatchery management. The project also organized youth consultation meetings and developed a program for capacity support of youth aquaculture. The project contributed to developing a national network of youth in aquaculture in Liberia and to establishing aquaculture value chains. It will also contribute to the government’s sectorial development and help create decent new jobs for youth.

IMPACT

Capacities were built for youth in business management, fisheries management and aquaculture development. In total, four aquaculture parks with 32 ponds and 8 fish breeding ponds were built and stocked with fingerlings and brood stock. Youths were trained in capacity building and workshops on the establishment and management of aquaculture businesses were conducted, and entrepreneurship was promoted among young people. The training courses provided by the project enabled these youths to manage their ponds on their own. Their ingenuity and resourcefulness led them to source their own feed when they had exhausted the supplies provided by the project. They increased their confidence bit by bit and have developed a strong attachment to aquaculture activities and rearing fish.

KEY FACTS

Contribution

USD 492 000

Duration

August 2014 – December 2016

Resource Partners

FAO

Partners

Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Agriculture, Bureau of National Fishery

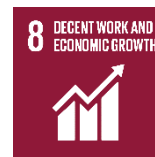
Beneficiaries

Institutions involved aquaculture and those engaged in the aquaculture value chain, youth population living in rural areas of Liberia



ACTIVITIES

- Employment model for young men and women in agriculture established.
- Value chains related to aquaculture established.
- Capacity building for the establishment and management of aquaculture scheme for youths.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Project Code

TCP/LIR/3503

Project Title

Creating aquaculture enterprises for youth employment, poverty reduction and food security

Contacts

FAO Office in Liberia

FAO-LR@fao.org

Martinus Van Der Knaap (Lead Technical Officer)

Martinus.VanDerKnaap@fao.org

Resource Mobilization Division
Marketing, Outreach and Reporting Team
Reporting@fao.org