



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

MAKING A
DIFFERENCE



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**BLUE
TRANSFORMATION**

Unlocking the potential of commercial aquaculture in Africa

Africa's potential for commercial aquaculture is huge. The world's second-largest continent in terms of both population and area has abundant water resources including large river basins and lakes.

Africa currently accounts for only 1.9 percent of global aquaculture output despite covering 20 percent of the Earth's land area. Between 2000 and 2022, production increased by around 8 percent each year. This growth was much higher than the global average, although it started from a relatively low base. Without a concerted effort Africa will be the only continent experiencing a decrease in per capita consumption of aquatic foods by 2030, as supply will not keep pace with population growth. If developed properly, aquaculture could contribute far more to feeding Africa's population, by providing animal protein at a reasonable cost.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is aiming for 35-percent growth in global sustainable aquaculture by 2030 as part of Blue Transformation, its vision for expanding aquatic food systems and increasing their contribution to nutritious and affordable healthy diets. Across Africa, FAO is running projects to boost commercial aquaculture that will contribute to achieving this target. Common themes in the various projects FAO implements in Africa include providing training in aquaculture techniques, supplying equipment, widening access to good-quality fish feed, improving seed, biosecurity and disease control, giving fish farmers advice on how to run their businesses, and youth empowerment. The examples that follow represent just a small selection of the support FAO provides all over the continent.



AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION

KENYA

12 300 tonnes in 2017

20 900 tonnes in 2021

RWANDA

1 500 tonnes in 2014

3 300 tonnes in 2017

ZAMBIA

12 900 tonnes in 2012

63 300 tonnes in 2021

KENYA

FAO developed commercial fish farming in Kenya through improved access to finance for investment in aquaculture-related businesses. The focus was on accelerating private sector investments in feed production, hatcheries, and grow-out facilities. There were 454 beneficiaries on 85 farms.

The project recorded substantial achievements in creating employment opportunities, moving beneficiaries from aid to trade, and orienting farmers to become entrepreneurs. It also contributed to reducing rural poverty and increasing food security.

Hatcheries that were supported went on to experience 85 percent survival of fingerlings per batch, making them more available to the region, where access had been chronically limited. Aquaculture production was just under 13 000 tonnes in 2017 but rose to almost 21 000 tonnes by 2020.

PROJECT Africa Solidarity Trust Fund

DURATION 2017-2020

FUNDING SUPPORT Multiple

RWANDA

In Rwanda, FAO implemented projects that began to realise more of aquaculture's potential.

FAO enabled access to high-quality, affordable seed, supported hatcheries and distributed incubators. Ten fish farmers' cooperatives and individual fish farmers were empowered with essential skills like the ability to run aquaculture as a business and to produce good seed and feed. These initiatives changed a dormant sector into a vibrant one made up of private companies and cooperatives of small-scale farmers. Aquaculture production increased from just over 1 500 tonnes in 2014 to more than 10 000 tonnes in 2021.

PROJECTS Enhancing Commercial Aquaculture & Promoting Agricultural Diversification to Reduce Poverty, Fight Malnutrition and Enhance Youth Employment Opportunities in Eastern Africa

DURATION 2014-2017

FUNDING SUPPORT African Solidarity Fund

ZAMBIA

FAO, Zambia's government, and the African Development Bank worked together to create the right framework for the sustainable long-term growth of fish farming. FAO's role was primarily to support infrastructure development, promote best practices, contribute to capacity building and knowledge sharing, and support institutional and legal frameworks. Part of this work involved training 185 people, including 135 farmers, in sustainable aquaculture.

The project demonstrated significant progress on all its key main objectives: production grew, capacity was developed, and policies were enhanced. FAO worked with the government, academic and research institutions, and farmers to improve seed and feed quality as well as aquatic health management. More than 25 fish hatcheries and eight fish feed manufacturing companies have been established in recent years.

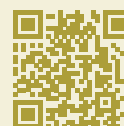
It is estimated that Zambia needs 15 percent growth in aquaculture output per year both to meet the demands of a growing population and to become self-sufficient. The almost fivefold increase in production between 2012 and 2021 was a positive step towards this goal.

PROJECT Zambia Aquaculture Enterprise Development Project

DURATION 2019-2024

FUNDING SUPPORT African Development Bank

Scan the QR code to learn about FAO's work on sustainable aquaculture:
www.fao.org/fishery/en/aquaculture



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