



IMPROVING SEABASS AQUACULTURE IN SRI LANKA

The project responded to the need to develop and revitalize the aquaculture sector in Sri Lanka, with specific reference to Asian seabass. The lack of low-cost nutritionally complete aquafeed is one of the major constraints to marine aquaculture development in the country. In addition, the sustainability of the aquaculture industry depends on the implementation of proper aquatic animal health management and of a disease control programme. As imported feeds are too expensive, farmers make their own feed without considering the nutritional requirements of the cultured species and without knowing the nutritional composition of the diet being used. This may lead to poor growth and health conditions of the fish, and to increased operational costs. The project focused on improving feed production, availability and quality through the development of a dedicated small-scale public private partnership feed production unit, above all for Asian seabass.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The main aim of the project was to introduce good-quality fish feed that incorporated locally available raw materials in order to increase aquaculture production with the involvement of primary and secondary stakeholders. The project began by collecting baseline information on feed and feed ingredient supply, availability, quality/composition, cost and distribution, current aquafeed production capacity, supply and demand, and policy dispensation in Sri Lanka. This included the preparation of a database of locally available feed ingredients and their nutritional composition, a review of nutritional requirements and feed formulation for different life stages for Asian seabass, and an assessment of the suitability for Asian seabass of the existing formulations used in commercially available aquafeed. The project developed six different feed formulations, of which three were prepared. A feed mill was procured and a building constructed for its installation. A review was also made of the animal feed industry and aquafeed value chain, and a business plan developed for private-sector investment in aquafeed manufacturing. Training was provided in seabass health management and laboratory equipment provided to enable the monitoring of feed quality. The originally envisaged establishment of a pilot-scale fish silage plant was discarded in order to focus on the installation of the feed mill.

IMPACT

The project built the capacity of government officials with regard to health management in seabass aquaculture, enabling them to disseminate this knowledge to the industry and farmers. The provision of laboratory equipment will enhance the quality of feed and feed ingredients, and ensure an increase in aquaculture production, as will the completed establishment and commissioning of the feed mill.

KEY FACTS

Contribution

USD 345 000

Duration

November 2014 – October 2017

Resource Partners

FAO

Partners

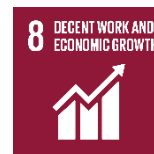
Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development, National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency

Beneficiaries

Small- to medium-scale aquaculture farmers, hatchery operators and farmers manufacturing on-farm feeds

ACTIVITIES

- Baseline survey made of feed and feed ingredient supply and availability, nutritional requirements, feed formulation and type of feed used for Asian seabass farms.
- Six high-quality and cost-effective feed formulations identified.
- Business plan, including feasibility study, developed for private-sector investment in aquaculture industry.
- Review conducted of the country's animal feed industry.
- Review and analysis made of the country's aquafeed value chain.
- Baseline survey made of diseases, pathogens and health-related problems in seabass aquaculture.
- Capacity-building activities conducted for 20 participants.
- Laboratory equipment provided to monitor feed and feed ingredient quality.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Project Code
TCP/SRL/3502

Project Title
Improving Seabass (*Lates calcarifer*) Aquaculture in Sri Lanka through Better Feed and Health Management

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