



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
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Organisation
des
Nations
Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная
организация
Объединенных
Наций

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

COMMITTEE FOR INLAND FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE OF AFRICA

Fifteenth Session

Lusaka, Zambia 09 – 11 December 2008

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS TO THE FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE FOR INLAND FISHERIES OF AFRICA

INTRODUCTION

1. The Committee for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Africa (CIFAA), held its Fourteenth Session in Accra, Ghana, (November 2006). The Session, in general, focused on the regional dimensions of inland fisheries and aquaculture development; assessing how the Committee could be strengthened to add value to these two important sub-sectors. These analyses reviewed key issues that could be best addressed through effective regional collaboration (e.g., co-management, stock assessment, combating IUU fishing, maintenance of ecosystems, quality control of regionally traded products and inputs). The discussions highlighted how economies of scale often made regional approaches the most efficient; these approaches and collaborations potentially one of the areas where CIFAA could have a positive impact.

2. Specifically, the Session made recommendations on which action has been taken by the Secretariat. The relevant paragraph numbers of the Report of the Fourteenth Session are given in brackets.

INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Committee was informed that the CIFA Sub-Committee for Lake Tanganyika would be transformed into the Lake Tanganyika Authority (paragraph 15).

3. The Lake Tanganyika Authority (LTA) has been established as described in agenda Item 8. More details are provided in CIFAA/XV/2008/Inf. 4

The Committee acknowledged the importance of the work of the Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme (paragraph 22)

4. The Sustainable Fisheries Livelihoods Programme (SFLP) formally came to an end in 2007. However, efforts are underway to identify ways and means to build on the foundation established by SFLP. This foundation has been one of the corner stones of the recently formulated integrated programme for fisheries and aquaculture in Africa.

The Committee underscored the need for harmonized policies and regulations on fishery management, movement of species and trade as well as the use of alien aquatic organisms, including plants (paragraph 25)

5. During the inter-sessional period, policy assistance and support has been provided to, among others, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Congo, Guinea, Togo, Gabon, Sudan, Senegal, Tanzania along with those countries sharing the Gulf of Guinea. Control of alien plant and animal species is catered for by the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) as adopted by Member Countries. Specific issues in terms of the transboundary movement of aquatic organisms are also being addressed through the regional project in the Volta Basin (GCP/RAF/417/SPA: Aquaculture Investments for Poverty Reduction in the Volta Basin.; Creating Opportunities for Low-Income African Fish Farmers through Improved Management of Tilapia Genetic Resources) as well as by regional Inter-Governmental Organisation such as the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation (LVFO).

Countries once again emphasized the fact that information on inland fisheries was incomplete and acknowledged the need for external support to collect and evaluate inland fisheries statistics. (paragraph 26)

6. Improved fisheries and aquaculture data and statistics are on-going tasks. Information on aquaculture has been facilitated through the web-based National Aquaculture Sector Overviews (NASOs) and the establishment of a GIS based global aquaculture database that will be fed by data collected during the NASO's preparation. More feasible and reliable mechanisms for statistics gathering and analyses are being reviewed, with aquaculture statistics building on advances made in the collection and use of data from the capture fisheries sub-sector. FAO through the FishCode CTC and the FishCode STF project assisted Members in improvement of inland fisheries data collection through development of tailor made training courses in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania and through the support of socio economic data collection in West Africa. Further FAO in collaboration with WorldFish Center implemented the BigNumbers project (BNP) activities in Lake Victoria, Nigeria, Ghana and Senegal. The BNP employs a systematic, country-by-country approach for collating and synthesizing available quantitative data for both coastal and inland small-scale fisheries. The Aquaculture Group of the Coordinating Working Party (CWP) on Fishery Statistics is in the process of establishment and its first ad hoc meeting was held in October 2008 with the participation of ANAF and NEPAD. This mechanism aims to develop standard concepts, definitions, classifications and methodologies for aquaculture data and statistics

Members requested training assistance in stock assessment and stressed the need for information and technology exchange across the Region (paragraph 27).

7. FAO has assisted Members by providing training in more than 30 countries across the Region. Networking, as a structured approach to information and technology exchange, has been initiated via the CIFAA ad hoc Working Group assigned to evaluate mechanisms for aquaculture networking as described further in CIFAA/XV/2008/Inf.6..

The Committee requested that progress be made in establishing a “NACA-Like” aquaculture network and endorsed the establishment of the aforementioned ad hoc Working Group (paragraph 31).

8. The ad hoc Working Group, initially comprised of Cameroon, Ghana, Mali, Uganda and Zambia, has expanded to include representatives from Nigeria with Kenya and Tanzania considering membership; joining predicated upon the expressed willingness of members to support the work of the Group. The Group met once in 2007 and twice in 2008. It has prepared Terms of Reference for the network named ANAF: Aquaculture Network for Africa. More details of the Working Group results and recommendations are provided separately under CIFAA/XV/2008/Inf.6.

The Committee furthermore recognised the critical importance of forging strong links with the private sector. Recommending that this group’s association with CIFAA be strengthened (paragraph 32).

9. The private sector has become increasingly involved in the FAO regional aquaculture programme. Private sector representatives are more and more integrated into programme activities including being invited to a session of the ANAF Working Group specifically organized to garner their inputs. Moreover, private sector representation has been key to countries where national aquaculture strategies have been, and are being elaborated (e.g., Senegal, DRC, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Cameroon, Tanzania, Uganda and Nigeria). The private sector is now considered as an expected participating group in a variety of field activities from the regional training exercises organized through the Japanese-funded FAO Regional Workshops on Rice and Aquaculture for Productivity Increase and Market Development in Africa GCP/INT/053/JPN (*Intra-African Training And Dissemination Of Technical Know-How For Sustainable Agriculture And Rural Development Within The Framework Of South-South Cooperation*) to the March 2007 workshop on fish genetic resources (Accra, Ghana: CIFA OP 29¹). At the two regional workshops on rice and aquaculture, several participants decided to modify existing national aquaculture development strategies to involve perspectives of the private sector, while participants from countries still without such strategies have made plans for the inclusion of the private sector in the coming formulation process.

Some members expressed the need for more diversification of national aquaculture programmes (paragraph 33).

10. As indicated in the preceding paragraph (paragraph number 9), a number of countries are adopting new approaches to aquaculture development through the implementation of national aquaculture strategies and plans. These activities are also part of the approach embodied in the new FAO Special Programme for Aquaculture Development in Africa (SPADA); this programme more fully described under Agenda Item 9.

¹ Pioneering Fish Genetic Resource Management And Seed Dissemination Programmes For Africa: Adapting principles of selective breeding to the improvement of aquaculture in the Volta Basin and surrounding areas, FAO, Accra 2008.

The Committee recommended that CIFAA have not only stronger links with the private sector, but also with regional economic communities (RECs) and NEPAD (paragraph 36)

11. Activities such as SPADA and ANAF have been undertaken with direct collaboration of NEPAD. NEPAD chaired the fisheries and aquaculture stakeholder consultation held in Accra, Ghana, in July 2007. NEPAD gave a presentation at the Special Event on SPADA at the 4th Session of the FAO Sub-Committee on Aquaculture in October 2008 in Puerto Varas, Chile and actively participated in ANAF meetings in Akosombo and Jinja in 2008. Stronger ties to RECs are integrated into the approach of SPADA whilst these organizations have been invited specifically to the present Session of CIFAA.

Members stressed that the political profile of inland fisheries and aquaculture should be raised (paragraph 37).

12. CIFAA reports were circulated during the 2008 Africa Regional Conference. FAO has been working closely, as stated above, with NEPAD to promote the overall fisheries sector. As part of this work, NEPAD has contacted Member Governments to ask them to redouble their efforts in assisting those Government agencies that are active in aquatic resource development.

The Committee unanimously requested FAO to find the means to sensitise and educate Ministers responsible for the fisheries and aquaculture sub-sectors on the role of CIFAA and key issues regarding aquaculture and inland fisheries development (paragraph 39)

13. Some sensitisation and education has been possible through the regional training programme (GCP/INT/053/JPN); see paragraph 9 above. Nevertheless, resource limitations have made such an effort as an organized activity difficult to accomplish. However, it is anticipated that, with regional resources increasing to the sub-sectors, additional effort will be able to be applied to this important task.

The Committee underlined the need for better communications among CIFAA members (paragraph 42)

14. In addition to the previously mentioned activities such as ANAF and SPADA and regional projects and programmes such as GCP/INT/053/JPN, GCP/RAF/417/SPA. TCP/RAF/3102 (*Support to the aquaculture subsector in the riparian countries around Lake Victoria*) and the regional integrated programme currently under formulation, FAO has provided assistance to national projects that becomes part of the wider regional information system that can be shared among Member Countries as communications improve and information tools (e.g., the ANAF Forum and Web site, RAF Web site, etc.) are more widely used. Member Countries benefiting from direct FAO Technical Support during the Inter-Sessional period include: Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, Eritrea, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda and Zambia.

The Committee recommended the name of CIFA be changed to CIFAA – Committee for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Africa – in recognition of the increasing importance of aquaculture to Africa (paragraph 47).

15. The Council of FAO, during its Thirty-third Session (Rome, 14-16 November 2007) noted that, at its Fourteenth Session held in Accra, Ghana, from 22 to 24 November 2006, the Committee for Inland Fisheries in Africa, a committee established by the Council under Article VI-2 of the FAO Constitution, recommended to the Council that its name be changed in order to reflect more accurately its work and activities concerning

both inland fisheries and aquaculture. The Council agreed that the name of the Committee should henceforth be Committee for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (CIFAA).

Some members requested mechanisms to evaluate the performance and accomplishment of CIFAA (paragraph 48)

16. Such evaluation mechanisms have not been identified nor put in place to date but could be the object of deliberations of the current Session.

Other Members expressed the need for technical assistance and capacity building in the area of aquaculture planning; referring to the planned Expert Consultation scheduled on this topic (paragraph 49).

17. Whilst specific support to aquaculture planning has been provided to countries as national programmes have been strengthened through the adoption of national aquaculture strategies and their accompanying plans (e.g., Gambia, DRC, Tanzania, Nigeria and Uganda), the Consultation referred to is still pending.

The 14th Session was informed about the African Water Resource Database (paragraph 55)

18. The African Water Resource Database (AWRD) is now available on the Internet at <http://www.fao.org/fishery/gisfish/id/1038> or upon request to FAO/FIMA (i.e. E-mail: FI-Inquiries) in a set of two DVD's, or ten CD-ROMs.

SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE

19. The committee is requested to note the progress reported and make recommendations as deemed appropriate.

20. The Committee may also wish to discuss actions taken at the national level on those recommendations addressed to Member Governments.