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COMMITTEE FOR INLAND FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE OF AFRICA

Sixteenth Session

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FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS TO THE FIFTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE FOR INLAND FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE OF AFRICA

INTRODUCTION

1. The Committee for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture of Africa (CIFAA), held its Fifteenth Session in Lusaka, Zambia, (December 2008). As an overarching priority, the Session was informed of the need for harmonized policies, strategies and regulations on fishery and aquaculture management, movement of species and trade as well as the use of alien aquatic organisms; noting this work was complicated by persistent challenges in communication and information channels. This was reiterated when stressing the need to implement the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries as well as the National Plans of Action to combat illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing (IUU) in the Region's inland waters.
2. Specifically, the Session made recommendations on which actions have been taken by the Secretariat and Members. The relevant paragraph numbers of the Report of the Fifteenth Session (RAFI/R907) are given in parentheses.

INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Capture Fisheries

The Committee appreciated the pending transformation of the Lake Tanganyika Sub-Committee into the Lake Tanganyika Authority (paragraphs 10 and 39).

3. The Lake Tanganyika Authority is now operational and will be further discussed under Agenda Item 5 (CIFAA/XVI/2010/3). An agreement between FAO and the Lake Tanganyika Authority on FAO technical support (funded through AfDB) is about to be signed.

The Committee emphasised the need to address IUU fishing (paragraph 20).

4. FAO has assisted Members in on-going and concerted efforts to combat IUU fishing across the Region. This includes support to the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

accompanied by assistance in strengthening public agencies responsible for monitoring, control and surveillance whilst reinforcing user groups to auto-regulate their fishing practices.

The Committee noted that investment in inland fisheries lagged behind that in the marine sub-sector and requested effective resource mobilization accompanied by more support to small-scale fishers (paragraph 21).

5. FAO has continued to pursue support to the fisheries sector through the planned SIDA-funded programme (paragraph 18, CIFAA XV). During the intersessional period a final proposal for this programme was submitted; results are pending.

6. In parallel to the planning of a regional programme, the Organization has assisted national programmes through targeted support. Examples include the preparation of a TCP proposal to develop culture-based fisheries in small reservoirs in Botswana as well as support to the fisheries component of the World Bank/Mozambique Water Resources Development Project. FI staff participated in a technical backstopping mission to Democratic Republic of the Congo aiming at providing guidance for the inclusion of fisheries in emergency projects in the country, while at the same time ensuring sustainability.

7. National programmes have also been strengthened with improved planning and monitoring capabilities using digital maps and data sets for inland water resources related to the FAO Africa Water Resource Database (<http://www.fao.org/fishery/collection/awrd/en>). An example of innovative management systems using these digital tools is the programme in Cameroon assisted by TCP support.

Members cited the need to mitigate the impacts of climate change (paragraph 27).

8. With assistance from the Government of Japan, FAO initiated an activity to investigate the potential effects and impacts of climate change on the fish and fisheries of the African Great Lakes (Lake Malawi/Nyassa, Lake Victoria and Lake Tanganyika). Based on the analyses undertaken, the climate change impacts on lake ecosystems and associated fisheries were identified. This topic is dealt with in more detail under Agenda Item 10.

Countries agreed that an inland fisheries strategy for Africa was needed and established an ad hoc Working Group to begin work on this strategy (paragraph 52)

9. The ad hoc Working Group met to elaborate their Terms of Reference and subsequently engaged in exchanges with the FAO focal person. However, for a variety of reasons, the Group was not able to coalesce to a level to be able to implement these anticipated actions. Nevertheless, FAO has designed and implemented a regional survey of national inland fisheries programmes in an attempt to build a solid foundation upon which to carry forward the work on developing the regional strategy (this the subject of Agenda Item 9). Additionally, with assistance from the FAO Multidonor Partnership Programme, FAO undertook a study on the current state of inland fisheries statistics from the Africa Region with the aim of improving their quality and interpretation for enhanced inland fisheries management as well as for identifying current trends in the sub-sector. This work will provide critical baseline information for assessing the impact of changing climate.

Aquaculture

Members stressed the need for a more aggressive approach to aquaculture development in the Region to achieve the increased investment necessary for overall production to expand as required to meet the growing supply gap (paragraph 26).

10. Whilst SPADA (paragraph 17, below) is the umbrella unified programme which defines FAOs approach to aquaculture in the Region, this methodology can be applied in several ways. In addition to, and to complement the regional approach, national activities using the same principles are being supported in increasing number. FAO TCP assistance to national aquaculture programmes during the intersessional period has included Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Gambia, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, and Zambia. Further support was provided through GCP/INT/053/JPN, which organised workshops in Burkina Faso, Uganda, Tanzania and Benin on rice and aquaculture for increased productivity and market development.

11. Investment has been at the core of many of the activities cited in the previous paragraph. Through the aforementioned support, countries such as Kenya, Ghana, Zambia, and Nigeria among others, are developing aqua-business planning and management tools to foster profitable and sustainable investment.

12. New approaches to aquaculture, within the broader context of SPADA, and with the aim of increasing the role of the private sector and thereby the private sector's ownership in the sub-sector, have been adopted across the Region through processes of elaborating and adopting national aquaculture strategies. With the assistance of FAO and other partners, a score of African Countries are at various stages of formulating and applying these strategies. The prototype involves a three-step process: (i) a national strategy defining the guiding principles for the sub-sector is derived in a participatory manner involving key stakeholders; (ii) a private-sector-led advisory group is formally established to provide council to Government on the implementation of the strategy; and (iii) using the strategy as the guide, the advisory group drafts a national aquaculture plan which will implement the strategy.

The Committee stressed the need for improved aquaculture inputs (paragraph 27).

13. The Organisation has launched work on multiple fronts to address the chronic input issue. To assist Members in the area of fish feed, improved feeds and feeding practices have been an integral part of many of the previously mentioned national projects. These include working with producer organizations to assess the best feeding options available to investors in a particular locale.

14. Better seed for African fish farmers has been a priority and is the basis for the "Tilapia Volta" project (GCP/RAF/417/SPA). This regional project, grouping the members of the Volta Basin (i.e., Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali and Togo) , is a pioneering effort to produce and supply better quality tilapia seed. This project and the wider issue of improved fish seed will be further discussed in Agenda Item 7.

15. Closely linked to the availability of improved inputs is the use of best practices. FAO is currently conducting a series of regional aquaculture reviews on Codes of Practice, Codes of Conduct, Best (Better) Management Practices and Technical Guidelines; including a study being carried out in Sub-Saharan Africa. Further information can be found on the aquaculture gateway page: <ftp://ftp.fao.org/FI/DOCUMENT/aquaculture/COPBMP/call.pdf>

Countries recognised the importance of ANAF (Aquaculture Network for Africa), noting that it required appropriate funding whilst taking into account existing networks with which to build

partnerships. The Committee further emphasised that ANAF needed to be anchored in existing structures such as the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO), whilst recommending that the Network be supported through a regional TCP in collaboration with NEPAD (paragraphs 29,32, 34 and 35).

16. As recommended, ANAF has established a provisional “hub” with LVFO. Although the anticipated TCP support did not materialize, the Network has continued to grow. From the initial five founding members of the CIFAA ad hoc Working Group (2006), ANAF is currently comprised of ten members: Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. ANAF Members have met twice during the intersessional period; in Nigeria in 2009 and Uganda in 2010. FAO has been able to provide some modest support to the “hub” whilst Ghana and Zambia have begun work on establishing their national ANAF networks as models for other countries. The report of the Working Group is presented as another component of this Agenda Item (CIFAA/XVI/2010/Inf. 2).

The Committee endorsed the implementation of SPADA – the Special Programme for Aquaculture Development in Africa. In so doing, Members recognised the need for important resources to implement the Programme; these resources including means to address the human resource gaps being experienced by many national programmes (paragraphs 45-48).

17. FAO has taken the SPADA concept and approach as the basis for a panAfrican programme to be supported by extrabudgetary resources. The objective of this project is: to improve economic and rural development by enhancing fish supply and distribution as well as benefiting nutrition through increased aquaculture production, this goal achieved by promoting sustainable aqua-businesses at national level including the necessary public and private support services. The project is divided into seven arenas of action (i.e., (1) Strengthening Regional, Sub-regional and National Institutions, (2) Networking and Outreach, (3) Capital and Input Supply, (4) Processing and Marketing, (5) Research and Education, (6) Social, Economic & Environmental Soundness, and (7) Monitoring and Evaluation) which are incorporated into three project modules (i.e., (1) increased investment in aquaculture, (2) promoting aquaculture products and (3) responsible aquaculture management). The project is designed in such way that all the modules may be incorporated into the same funding or each module may be funded separately.

18. The aforementioned draft SPADA project addresses the human resource gap by viewing different elements of national programmes as being “Tier One” (advanced) or “Tier Two” (less advanced). Using the farmer-to-farmer principle, the project is designed to bring Tier Two stakeholders to Tier One sites for on-the-job learning; each beneficiary returning to take an active part in capacity building in their home. Tier One – Tier Two exchanges can be between and within countries; the relative level of advancement being specific to one aquaculture system or topic.

Post-Harvest

The Committee stressed the need for lower-cost fish preservation technologies that would ensure that these fish products would continue to be accessible to most consumers (paragraph 57).

19. FAO assisted in the formulation of a trust fund project "Reduction of post harvest losses and market diversification for fish and fish products from Lake Malawi/Nyassa" to be funded by the Common Funds for Commodity (CFC). It was approved by the COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade in April 2010 in Buenos Aires. In addition, based on the FAO-commissioned 2008 study to minimize losses in post-harvest fisheries, TCP/UGA/3204(D) "Increase supply of Mukene (*Rastrineobola argentea*) for human consumption" is currently being implemented to assist the Government in preparing the policy, strategy and management plans for Mukene fisheries in order to comply with LVFO directives and to obtain maximum economic benefits within a sustainable fisheries framework.

Countries highlighted the importance of intra-regional markets and recognized the need to develop standards and certification schemes for fish products intended for these markets. (paragraph 58)

20. TCP/UGA/3204(D) aims among others to develop standards for Mukene-based products to fit within Ugandan national regulations. This initiative with Lake Victoria Sardine, an important regional trade commodity is seen not only as a start up for East African member States to harmonize sanitary regulations in this underutilized species, but also an opportunity to promote marketing in better quality products in the Southern and Eastern Africa markets.

Committee Functions

Members were invited to examine the CIFAA Terms of Reference, establishing an ad hoc Working Group to review the current mandate and make recommendations as to changes. The product of their deliberations was presented to the Secretariat for distribution to member countries (paragraph 37).

21. The revised Terms of Reference were submitted by the Secretariat to Members along with the printed copy of the report of the 15th Session. At that time, Members were asked to make specific comments in preparation for the discussions to take place during the current session (Agenda Item 6).

SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE

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

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