Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

BOOSTING FOOD SECURITY THROUGH DEVELOPMENT OF AQUATIC GENETIC RESOURCES

Aquatic genetic resources play a pivotal role in contributing to global food security and nutrition, as well as sustainable livelihoods, however most FAO members have highlighted limitations and constraints in assessing their national capacities to conserve, sustainably use and develop their own such resources. Recognizing the need to assist members in developing and managing their aquatic genetic resources, the Aquaculture Branch of FAO's Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, in consultation with the Committee on Fisheries Advisory Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources and Technologies, agreed on the need to develop a comprehensive framework in the form of technical guidelines.


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WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

FAO developed and validated a comprehensive "Framework of minimum requirements on sustainable use, management and conservation of Aquatic genetic resources of relevance for the aquaculture sector" (the Framework), which was to be used as technical guidelines by beneficiary stakeholders. According to the original work plan, Zambia was selected as the target country in which to field-test the effectiveness of the Framework.
The other output realized by the project was the development of capacities in the target country to sustainably develop, manage and use aquatic genetic resources through FAO support.

IMPACT

The Southern African Development Community (of which Zambia is a member) and the East African Community have now begun to implement their regional aquaculture strategies. The FAO Framework can provide the structure to achieve regional objectives regarding the conservation, sustainable use and development of aquatic genetic resources.
The project's different stakeholders were consulted to identify priority elements, with a view to ensuring access to aquatic genetic resources and the sharing of benefits derived from their use in aquaculture farming, as well as the establishment of effective and transparent mechanisms to enabling partnership between the public and private sector with the essential goal of providing public services.

KEY FACTS

Contribution
USD 212 431

Duration
February 2017 – May 2018

Resource Partners
Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture of Germany (BMEL); Government of Federal Republic of Germany

Partners
World Fisheries Trust, Research Centre for Farm Animal Gene Conservation, International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management

Beneficiaries
Fish farmers, hatchery staff, aquatic genetic resources managers, policy and decision-makers, donors, consumers and academic institutions

ACTIVITIES

- An initial Framework drafted by FAO and revised by an international panel of experts on aquatic genetic resources during a videoconference held in July 2017, with the aim of discussing and consolidating their inputs in a revised version of the Framework. Zambia selected as target country for project implementation.
- Revised Framework presented for validation and endorsed at the first Southern African Development Community-WorldFish-FAO Platform for Genetics and Biodiversity Management in Aquaculture, held in Lusaka, Zambia in September 2017.
- Case studies prepared and appended to Framework, including genetic improvement of tilapia in the Volta Basin, selective breeding and dissemination of farmed aquaculture strains and the impact of aquatic exotic species in the Pacific.
- Two technical exchange visits organized between Zambia and Hungary. Three Hungarian geneticists travelled to Zambia for a study tour of selected universities, research institutes and farms in February 2018, while three national officers from the Zambia's Department of Fisheries travelled to Hungary for a study tour.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Project Code
GCP/GLO/777/GER

Project Title
Enhancing the contribution of Aquatic Genetic Resources to food security

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