



MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON FISHERIES
COOPERATION AMONG AFRICAN STATES
BORDERING THE ATLANTIC OCEAN

2018

Report of the Workshop

“Towards sustainable development of marine
aquaculture in the ATLAFCO zone”



COMHAFAT/ATLAFCO

CONFERENCE MINISTERIELLE SUR LA COOPERATION HALIEUTIQUE ENTRE LES ETATS AFRICAINS
RIVERAINS DE L'OCEAN ATLANTIQUE

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON FISHERIES COOPERATION AMONG AFRICAN STATES BORDERING
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" Towards sustainable development of marine aquaculture in the ATLAFCO zone"

M'diq, Morocco, 10-12 December 2018

INTRODUCTION

1. From 10 to 12 December 2018, a workshop was held in M'Diq (Morocco) under the theme "Towards sustainable development of marine aquaculture in the ATLAFCO zone".
2. The organization of this workshop is part of the ATLAFCO Action Plan and in line with the relevant international recommendations for the development of marine aquaculture, and the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa, which has identified aquaculture as one of its priority areas for action.
3. It aims to provide a diagnosis of the marine aquaculture sector in the ATLAFCO region, exchange experiences and good practices, propose actions to be undertaken and develop recommendations for the development of sustainable marine aquaculture, respectful of the environment in the countries of the Region.
4. The meeting was attended by representatives of
 - the following Member States; **Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Cabo Verde, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Liberia, Morocco, Mauritania, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Senegal and Togo.**
 - Institutions: **PESCAO / ECOWAS, JICA, ANDA, INRH, ISEM and ANA (Senegal).**
5. Also took part in the work of the meeting, professionals, experts and resource persons involved in the field of marine aquaculture.
6. The list of participants is in **Annex I**.

OPENING CEREMONY

7. Opening the meeting, **Dr. Konan KOUAKOU**, on behalf of **Mr. Kobenan Kouassi ADJOUMANI**, Minister of Animal Resources and Fisheries of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and current Chairman of ATLAFCO, expressed his deep gratitude to His Majesty MOHAMED VI. God assists him, for the reception and the arrangements made by the Moroccan authorities to ensure the good stay of the participants.

8. He then stressed the importance of this meeting and congratulated ATLAFCO for the programming of this reflection capable of proposing recommendations for the development of marine aquaculture in the ATLAFCO zone.
9. He stressed that this workshop is part of the implementation of the action plan of ATLAFCO (2018) and complements the efforts of other bodies, particularly AU-IBAR on the fundamental aspects. the development of marine aquaculture, namely a supportive environment, species and seeds, production systems, inputs, knowledge and skills, capital and investment opportunities as well as market requirements.
10. He recalled that the purpose of this workshop is to raise awareness and support the administrations responsible for the development of marine aquaculture and to analyze the development strategies of this sub-sector initiated by the Member States..
11. Wishing the deliberations of the meeting great success, he declared open the work of the Workshop.
12. Speaking, **Mr. Khalid El Alloussi**, representative of the Department of Fisheries of Morocco welcomed the participants to the workshop.
13. He then underlined the importance of this meeting and congratulated ATLAFCO for this initiative for the sustainable development of marine aquaculture whose socio-economic role is well established for the economies of the Member States.
14. For her part, **Mrs. Majida MAAROUF**, Director of the National Agency for the Development of Aquaculture (ANDA), after having welcomed all the representatives of the member countries of the ATLAFCO, and expressed her great satisfaction for having associated ANDA at this workshop, expressed her willingness to share the lessons of the Moroccan experience in the development of marine aquaculture.
15. In his turn, **Mr. Abdelouahed BENABBOU**, Executive Secretary of ATLAFCO, began his speech by thanking the Moroccan Authorities for their invaluable support that made this meeting possible.
16. He emphasized that this meeting constitutes a solemn commitment by ATLAFCO to promote active regional fisheries cooperation and a testimony of its constant desire to promote South-South cooperation, taking into account the central socio-economic role played by the fisheries and aquaculture sectors in the region.
17. He noted that aquaculture, and its mariculture industry, has not been developed adequately in many parts of our region, producing unsatisfactory and often ephemeral results, at the very rapid development is seen throughout the rest of the world.
18. He reiterated that the purpose of this reflection is to help resolve this paradox, by providing through a coherent framework of intervention axes and a practical methodology, a set of measures to recommend to those responsible for drawing up policies that can lead the mariculture sector to generate adequate and substantial benefits, thus contributing to its sustainable development.
19. Before wishing the success of this workshop, he paid a great tribute to Côte d'Ivoire for its strong leadership of the ATLAFCO and to OFCF for its support and accompaniment.

20. The conduct of the work of the workshop was entrusted **Dr. Abdellatif ORBI**, consultant.

AGENDA

21. The agenda was discussed and adopted unanimously **ANNEX II**.

WORK CONDUCT

22. The work took place in plenary and in four sessions.
Each session consists of presentations followed by a debate.
23. **First session: Aquaculture and sustainable development in Africa.**
24. **Mr. Naji Laamrich**, Program Manager at the Secretariat of ATLAFCO, gave a presentation on the theme of "*The contribution of aquaculture to the SDGs*".
25. The presentation focuses on the contribution of aquaculture to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Sustainable development encompasses the three dimensions of economic growth, social development and environmental sustainability. He then referred to the chronological evolution of sustainable development, recalling the adoption by the Member States of the United Nations on 25 September 2015, of a set of 17 specific objectives covering several areas including: poverty, hunger, gender equality, economic growth and underwater life, to be achieved under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
Although these SDGs are not legally binding, governments should take ownership and establish national frameworks for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through recurrent planning of national and sectoral development. **The aquaculture value chain can contribute to the achievement of the SDGs at national and regional levels**
26. **Dr. Lahcen ABABOUC** International Expert entitled "*Challenges and Promises for Aquaculture Development, Case of Africa*",
27. The presentation takes stock of the strengths and constraints of development of marine aquaculture, in the light of successful experiences in Asia, Oceania and the Mediterranean.
After demonstrating the importance of global fish and aquaculture production in meeting the food (protein) needs of the world's population, creating employment, income and wealth, he emphasized that fish and seafood are one of the most traded foodstuffs in the world with more than half of the exports in value coming from developing countries.
He added that while fishery production has stagnated for decades, the demand for fish and seafood has steadily increased. Consumption has more than doubled since 1973 thanks to strong growth in aquaculture, which now supplies more than half of the fish consumed worldwide, noting in passing that aquaculture production for Africa is still very modest.
In his analysis, Dr. ABABOUC predicts a very high demand for fish and aquaculture products and will be mainly satisfied by the growth in supply from aquaculture.
This development opens a new era in which aquaculture will progressively become the driving force behind the transformation of the fisheries and aquaculture sector.
Finally, Dr. ABABOUC regretted the lack of significant marine aquaculture production on the African Atlantic coast, which he explained inter alia, by the fact that marine aquaculture did not have the political support to register it on the map of coastline and coastal zones development.

28. The presentation "*Sustainable Development of Aquaculture in Africa - Perspectives of the African Union*" was made on behalf of **AU-IBAR** by **Mr. Mohamed Sadiki**, Secretariat of ATLAFCO.

29. The overall objective of the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa PFRS, adopted by the AU in 2014, is to create a favorable environment for the fisheries sector to generate sustainable economic and social development in Africa.

The strategic goal for sustainable aquaculture development is to "re-launch market-oriented sustainable commercial aquaculture" through the following key strategies and actions:

- Creating a favorable environment;
- Integration of aquaculture strategies and plans into national development plans;
- Create an African center of excellence for aquaculture and intensify research and dissemination of best practices;

This presentation notes that the main obstacles to the expansion and realization of Africa's full aquaculture potential stem from the sub-optimal use and management of the natural resources available for aquaculture and the difficulties in supplying and sustaining aquaculture access to key inputs, including animal feed, seeds, human resources, appropriate technology and finance.

The presentation concludes by recalling the Africa Aquaculture Development Strategy which builds on five priority actions for sustainable market-based aquaculture development:

- Create an institutional, legal and economic environment conducive beneficial to the development of aquaculture;
- Improve access to inputs (seeds, food, financial services and others);
- Build capacity and practical skills along the aquaculture value chain;
- Strengthen the management of trans-boundary ecosystems.
- Promote innovation and research development

30. **Dr. Amadou Tall**, PESCAO/ECOWAS, Expert *Opportunities and Constraints of Aquaculture Development in West Africa*”:

31. In his Presentation he pointed out that Fish is one of the cheapest sources of animal protein and the most widely accepted animal product in Africa. Unlike, it is heavily consumed across the various religious, ethnic and social lines that crisscross the African continent.

He then highlighted that some ECOWAS countries are among world’s largest reservoirs (Senegal, Niger, Lake Chad, Volta, Mono, Bandama Sassandra) with combined storage capacity of 246 km³ of water, including the world’s largest man-made lake by area, Lake Volta, with 8,502 km².

He pointed out that ECOWAS, GDP of US\$ 623 billion is not only an opportunity for itself, but a strategic location to harbor export platforms to other African countries and beyond.

The market opportunities are a major argument to support the West African investment in aquaculture

32. **Mr. Shunji SUGIYAMA**, de la JICA “*the potential and challenges of mariculture towards the sustainable blue economy*”.

33. After highlighting the growing importance of the interest in the blue economy, which aims to promote economic growth, social inclusion and improved livelihoods while ensuring the environmental sustainability of oceans and coastal zones, Mr. Shunji SUGIYAMA, wondering about the place of the aquaculture sector?

This is an opportunity to attract more attention and investment. Aquaculture has remarkable advantages in the context of the blue economy. These include the use of

oceans as "farmland" for market-oriented food production, integration with other economic sectors, complementarity with capture fisheries and possible positive effects on the marine environment and ecosystems.

However, promoting aquaculture, especially marine finfish aquaculture, may not be easy due to many obstacles, such as difficult geographical conditions, limited access to quality seeds and food.

In the promotion of mariculture, a holistic approach may be needed, encompassing a legal / policy framework, human resource development, practical research, local coordination for land use planning and provision of essential inputs.

Given the complexity of the development of mariculture in the region, one possible option might be to start with a shellfish / seaweed culture that is well adapted to the local context and the blue economy.

JICA is in the process of developing practical technical options and useful know-how in this regard.

34. **Second session : State of play of marine aquaculture in the ATLAFCO member countries and prospects for its development**

35. **Pr. Aissa Benazouz**, Researcher Professor at ISEM, " *Description of the marine ecosystems of the region* ".

36. The presentation attempts to identify the environmental challenges facing marine aquaculture in the entire West African marine ecosystem (from Cape Spartel to Cape Town via Ecuador) in a marine environment both naturally fertilized by the natural mega pump of upwelling (Canarian, Benguela and Equatorial currents) and also very aggressive because of the highly energetic mesoscale structures having a transfer power off all the biogeochemical properties of coastal areas.

The importance of local monitoring of environmental parameters should be emphasized, as aquaculture is extremely sensitive to sudden and long-term variations in weather-ocean conditions.

Anticipative and innovative monitoring systems based on real-time satellite imagery and hydrodynamic modeling can record, analyze and understand the causes of physicochemical and biological changes in the rearing environment and anticipate adverse events.

37. At this session, working groups were formed to discuss the strengths and constraints of the marine areas of Atlantic.

At the end of this session, a reading of the minutes of the working groups / recommendations was made.

38. **Third session : Accompaniment and et partnership, Public-Private Partnership (PPP) :**

39. **Mr. Guy Gohier**, Farmer in Mbodiene Plage, Senegal: "*Marine protected area of aquaculture and natural reproduction*".

40. In his presentation, he shared his experience as a farmer in Senegal, and reported some simple lessons and techniques and using recovery materials (shellfish) learned in the field. He has shown that aquaculture activities, which are not very capital intensive, can not only generate income but also contribute to improving the environment.

41. **Mr. Serge Carle**, Aqualog, France: "*Realization of a resource and production center in fish farming*"

42. The presentation focused on the realization of a project of fishing and fish culture continental and lacustrine that can be created around a resource center and become a real chain of production, processing and distribution of fish products. With objectives such as support for fishers or aquaculturists, food security or demonstrator can be reproducible by small producers receiving support and training from the Resource Center.

All components of a fish farm are represented on a small scale, from hatchery to distribution to food production.

This type of Resource Center is particularly adapted to the African continent and makes it possible to achieve a long-term transfer of aquaculture technologies, in a sustainable way and able to support small producers. The resource center aims to achieve balance and have enough financial resources to guarantee its existence and development. It has an educational vocation and provides technical assistance.

43. **Dr. Thierry Givernand**, *'Potentialities and constraints for local development: Example of the project of growing graceful algae on the Nador lagoon in favor of the Marchica fishermen's cooperative'*

44. Seaweed aquaculture accounts for more than 20% of global aquaculture. This production remains mainly concentrated in the countries of the Far East. This production is mainly used for direct human nutrition or for the production of phycocolloids (agar, carrageenan and alginates). This activity has a significant economic weight not only in China or Korea but is growing rapidly in Indonesia or the Philippines where the processing industry is developing rapidly.

In Africa, seaweed farming has noticeably increased in Madagascar and Tanzania (Zanzibar), but in both countries the processing industry is still embryonic.

In Morocco, the world's 3rd largest exporter of agar and where the industry is demanding raw material, the first seaweed farm was only created in 2016, while the research, testing pilots began in the late 1980s.

The algae farm project on the Nador Lagoon was set up as part of the ICZM (Integrated Coastal Zone Management) project of the Oriental region which was supported financially by the World Bank, the Global Environment Fund. This project was carried out for the benefit of a fishermen's cooperative. He has been mentored in collaboration with the local processing industry who is interested in production. It must provide them with a source of additional income.

The project succeeded because a number of conditions were met (favorable natural conditions, know-how, a local market, a motivated industry, an agency in support, the participation of all local actors - administrations, municipalities, cooperatives, the involvement of local beneficiaries, the ICZM approach, etc.).

45. **Dr. Abdellatif Orbi**, consultant, *'Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture (AEA) and Marine Aquaculture Species Value Chains'*

46. In his presentation, he stressed that in Africa; marine aquaculture is embryonic and seeks its development path for several years.

Among the constraints that block the development of this activity, the market and conflicts of use. Conquering a market requires the implementation and application of quality and safety procedures. The coastal areas are generally the seat of several activities that can be antagonistic (Fishing, Tourism, Port activities, Navigation, etc.).

To build a sustainable aquaculture strategy, FAO recommends the use of the Aquaculture Ecosystem Approach (AEA).

The main objective of these guidelines is to assist countries, institutions and policymakers in the development and implementation of a strategy to ensure the sustainability of the aquaculture sector and its integration into other sectors as well as its contribution to social and economic development.

The main purpose of the AEA is to overcome the sectoral and intergovernmental fragmentation of resource management efforts and to develop institutional mechanisms

for effective coordination between the different sectors active in the ecosystems in which aquaculture operates and between the different levels of government.

The two expected results of the application of its directives are:

- A truly sustainable aquaculture sector (environmentally, economically and socially);
- A change in public attitudes (in the broadest possible sense) and the perception of aquaculture

47. **Forth session : Guidelines and recommendations for the development of marine aquaculture**

During this session, two working groups were formed to discuss marine aquaculture development perspectives in the ATLAFCO region and to make relevant recommendations..

48. A final plenary session enabled participants to formulate the recommendations contained in **ANNEX III**.

49. Before closing the meeting, the participants asked Mr. A. Benabbou, Executive Secretary of ATLAFCO, and Mr. Amadou Tall, of ECOWAS, to further develop the partnership between the two institutions to better contribute to the promotion of marine aquaculture activities..

50. A At the end of the workshop, **Mr. Magatte Ba**, Director General of the National Aquaculture Agency of Senegal (ANA), spoke on behalf of all the participants, to thank on the one hand, the ATLAFCO for this laudable initiative, which gave the opportunity to those responsible for marine aquaculture in the Member countries, to exchange and reflect on the ways and means to promote the sub-sector of marine aquaculture, and on the other hand the Moroccan authorities for all the attentions and facilities granted to the participants.

51. This report has been adopted unanimously.

52. The work of the workshop is declared closed à 17 :50

53. Field visit:

Visit of the INRH complex at AMSA (Tetouan Region)

ANNEXE I: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

N ^o	Countries	NAMES	TITLE	E-MAIL
1	ANDA	Mme Maarouf Majida	Directrice Générale	m.maarouf@anda.gov.ma
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ANNEXE II: AGENDA OF THE WORKSHOP

1st day: 10 December 2018

Opening ceremony	
08:30 - 09:00	- Registration
09:00 - 09:30	- Opening ceremony
09:30 - 09:40	- Introduction and program of the Workshop : DR. A. ORBI , Consultant
09:40 - 10:00	Group photo and coffee break
First session : Aquaculture and sustainable development in Africa	
10:00 - 10:30	- The Contribution of Aquaculture to the SDGs, Mr. A. LAAMRICH , ATLAFCO
10:30 - 11:00	- Challenges and Promises for Aquaculture Development: Case of Africa: Dr. Lahcen ABABOUC
11:00 - 11:30	- The Sustainable aquaculture development in Africa – African union perspectives: AU/IBAR- Mr. Mohammed SADIKI , ATLAFCO
11:30 - 12:00	- Opportunities and Constraints of Aquaculture Development in West Africa : Dr. Amadou Tall , TA PESCAO / ECOWAS
12:00 - 12:30	- Potential and challenges of mariculture toward sustainable blue economy: Mr. Shunji SUGIYAMA , JICA/MPM
12:30 - 14:00	Lunch
Second session : State of play of marine aquaculture in the ATLAFCO member countries and prospects for its development	
14:00 - 16:00	- Country Presentations: Ghana, Benin, Ghana, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal
16:00 - 16:30	Coffee break
16:00 - 17:00	- West African marine ecosystem: A natural pump to fertilize the oceans: Dr. A. Benazouz , Research Professor at ISEM
17:00 - 18:00	- Working groups - Reading of the minutes of the working groups / recommendations

2nd day: 11 December 2018

Third Session	Support and partnership
09:00 - 10 :00	<u>Public-Private Partnerships (PPP):</u> - Marine protected area of aquaculture and natural reproduction by Mr. Guy Gohier , Farmer in Mbodiene Plage, Senegal

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Realization of a fish farming resource and production center by Mr. Serge Carle, Aqualog, France
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Algae aquaculture: Potentialities and constraints for local development: Example of the project of growing gracilated seaweed for the benefit of a fishermen's cooperative by Dr. Thierry Givernand, SETEXAM Morocco Company
10:00- 10:30	- Discussions
10:30 - 10 :45	Coffee break
10:45 - 11:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Accompagnement</u>: - Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture (EAA) and Marine Aquaculture Species Value Chains: Dr. Abdellatif Orbi, Consultant
11:15-13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Forming 2 Working Groups</u> - Reading of the minutes of the working groups / recommendations
13:00 - 14:00	- Lunch
<u>Fourth session</u> : : Guidelines and recommendations for the development of marine aquaculture	
14:00 - 17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adoption of the recommendations of the Workshop - Proposal for the necessary measures to be applied in the countries of the region for the development of aquaculture - Conclusions and discussions

3rd day: 12 December 2018

Field visit	
09:00 - 12 :30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visit Aqua M'diq aquaculture facilities - Visit the large INRH complex built by the Japanese at AMSA (40m to reach this complex)
End of the workshop	

- A. Considering** the growing importance of developing sustainable aquaculture and its potential contribution to food security nutrition and the achievement of a large number of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets;
- B. Referring** to the various FAO resolutions on aquaculture development, including those mentioned in Article 9 of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, entitled *Aquaculture Development*;
- C. Considering** the importance given to aquaculture, in the *Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa* , adopted in 2014, and its potential contribution to the fulfillment of the commitments set out in the Declaration of Malabo in June 2014, mainly the confirmation of the :
- ✓ Commitment to the principles and values of the CAADP (Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program) process
 - ✓ The Commitment to Eradicate Hunger in Africa by 2025
 - ✓ Commitment for a contribution of agriculture to reduce poverty by 2025 through inclusive growth;
- D. Agreeing** on the importance of marine aquaculture in contributing to the reduction of pressure on natural aquatic resources, the regeneration of some overexploited stocks and the preservation and enhancement of important coastal areas;
- E. Noting** the low level of progress and success of marine aquaculture on the African continent, particularly in the Atlantic coastal countries;
- F. Noting** the major constraints to the development of sustainable marine aquaculture in the countries of the Region,:
- Insufficient institutional, legal and human resource capacity;
 - Insufficient resources and services needed for the emergence of sustainable marine aquaculture: availability and access to technical and financial services, access to markets and quality inputs (fry, spat, food, etc.)
 - Insufficient scientific research and innovation for sustainable marine aquaculture adapted to the Region;
 - Competition for space with other activities;
 - The capital-intensive nature of investments with a long return on investment and high risks, with the reluctance of funding institutions to invest in this sector;
- G. Bearing** in mind the encouraging results of the experiences of some countries in the region;

- H. Conscious** of the need to maximize the socio-economic potential of marine aquaculture in pursuit of the objectives of creating an enabling environment for the aquaculture sector to participate in equitable, social and economic development in Africa;
- I. Convinced** that mariculture is an alternative source of seafood for the growing population and a means to bridge the gap between the demand for and supply of fish products due to the rapid decline in capture fish stocks

PARTICIPANTS RECOMMEND :

I- Political and Institutional Level

- Strengthens position and the institutional capacity of marine aquaculture in the Member States are ATLAFCO ;
- Adopt the ecosystem approach to aquaculture for inclusion in integrated coastal zone management plans and as a component of the blue economy;
- Develop regional strategic cooperation and partnerships in the different fields of sustainable marine aquaculture, between Member States and between public and private actors;
- Support the development and implementation of sustainable marine aquaculture guidelines in the ATLAFCO region;
- Support the creation by ATLAFCO and ECOWAS of a Network of National Public Agencies and Units in charge of the development of marine aquaculture of the Member States;

II- Legal technical and economic level

- Develop market-oriented commercial marine aquaculture for better contribution to fish supply, rural employment, income and food and nutrition security ;
- Promote private sector investments and public-private partnerships in sustainable marine aquaculture;
- Develop a regional master plan identifying potential areas appropriate for sustainable marine aquaculture ;
- Establish incentives at the national and regional levels to increase availability and facilitate access to inputs, including food and seeds;
- Develop research and scientific and technical skills in sustainable marine aquaculture through exchange of expertise, technology transfer and practical technical training;

III- Respect for the environnement

- Guarantee an environmentally friendly marine aquaculture through the adoption and implementation of measures to prevent, control and reduce and mitigate the negative impacts of aquaculture on the environment;
- Provide frameworks for environmental management at the level of biodiversity and biosecurity, allowing evaluation of marine aquaculture projects;
- Require the use of environmental impact studies and / or strategic environmental assessment studies for marine aquaculture projects in accordance with the Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture;
- Establish a comprehensive system of standards and controls to ensure the health and commercial quality assurance of aquaculture products in accordance with relevant international standards.

**Allocution d'ouverture de Monsieur A. Benabbou
Secrétaire Exécutif de la COMHAFAT**

**”Vers un développement durable de l'aquaculture dans la zone COMHAFAT “
10-12 décembre 2018 M'Diq, Maroc**

**Monsieur le Représentant du Département des Pêches Maritimes
du Royaume du Maroc**

**Madame la Directrice Générale de l'Agence Nationale de
Développement de l'Aquaculture du Royaume du Maroc**

Monsieur le Représentant de l'INRH

Messieurs les Délégués des Etats membres de la COMHAFAT

Messieurs les Représentants des sociétés aquacoles marocaines

Mesdames et Messieurs

C'est un honneur et un plaisir pour moi de prendre la parole en ma qualité de Secrétaire Exécutif de la COMHAFAT à l'occasion de cette rencontre entre experts sur *“Le développement durable de l'aquaculture marine dans la zone COMHAFAT”*.

Votre présence nombreuse, montre tout l'intérêt que vous accordez au développement de ce sous-secteur dans les pays membres de notre organisation, raison pour laquelle je voudrais saluer chaleureusement tous nos invités ainsi que l'ensemble des Délégués des Etats membres et les remercier d'avoir accepté notre invitation pour débattre d'un sujet d'actualité et d'une importance capitale pour les économies des pays membres de la COMHAFAT

Je voudrais dès cette entame, remercier les Autorités marocaines pour leur inestimable appui qui a rendu possible cette rencontre.

Mesdames et Messieurs,

La ville de M'Diq accueille pour la 2^{ème} fois un atelier de réflexion sur le développement de l'aquaculture dans les pays de la région COMHAFAT.

L'organisation de ce deuxième atelier s'inscrit dans le cadre du plan d'action de la COMHAFAT au titre de l'année 2018 et traduit les préoccupations exprimées par les organisations régionales (Union Africaine) et internationales (FAO), qui visent à mettre en place un cadre

propice et favorable pour l'essor des activités aquacoles à même de générer un développement socio-économique durable des pays de la région.

C'est aussi un forum de partage des connaissances et d'expériences entre les divers acteurs du secteur aquacole dans les pays membres de la COMHAFAT. Il constitue, s'il en est besoin, un engagement solennel de la COMHAFAT pour la promotion d'une coopération halieutique régionale active au service des pêches maritimes en général et un témoignage de sa volonté constante de promouvoir la coopération Sud-Sud compte tenu du rôle socio-économique central que jouent les secteurs de la pêche et de l'aquaculture dans la région.

Mesdames et Messieurs,

La rencontre de 2017 sur cette thématique, tout en constatant le faible niveau de développement de l'aquaculture en général dans la majorité des Etats de la région, a pointé du doigt la quasi absence de l'aquaculture marine et ce pour diverses raisons que nous aurons à rappeler et à analyser lors de cet atelier.

La contribution de l'aquaculture (et de sa branche mariculture) à l'amélioration des économies nationales, surtout dans les pays en voie de développement, en participant à l'accroissement des disponibilités alimentaires et à l'accessibilité à la nourriture, à la création d'emplois et de revenus, n'est plus à démontrer. Cependant, force est de constater qu'elle n'a pas réussi à se développer de façon appropriée en beaucoup d'endroits de notre région, produisant des résultats peu satisfaisants et souvent éphémères, au moment où un développement rapide est constaté à travers le reste monde.

Le but de notre présente réflexion est d'aider à résoudre ce paradoxe en fournissant à travers un cadre cohérent d'axes d'intervention et une méthodologie pratique, un ensemble de mesures à préconiser aux responsables de l'élaboration des politiques, pouvant conduire le secteur de la mariculture à générer des avantages adéquats et substantiels, contribuant ainsi à son développement durable.

Il s'agira donc

- De mieux comprendre les conditions indispensables au développement des activités de l'aquaculture marine dans notre Région,
- De recommander des pratiques optimales, pour lui permettre de se développer d'une manière durable, en définissant les axes des

politiques pour la promotion de ce type d'aquaculture, la faisabilité économique et les conditions d'investissement, ainsi que les cadres juridiques, régulateurs et institutionnels.

Cette rencontre sera également pour nous, l'occasion précieuse de nous informer sur les réalisations récentes dans nos pays, et de se pencher sur des problèmes et des sujets de préoccupations communs, de partager des expériences et des connaissances, en particulier en ce qui concerne les travaux et les recherches en cours dans nos différents Etats membres.

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Le programme de ces trois journées de notre atelier est organisé autour de quatre (4) sessions :

- La 1^{ère} session '*L'aquaculture et le développement durable en Afrique*' présentera les enjeux et des défis de l'aquaculture et du développement durable en Afrique.
- La 2^{ème} session '*Etat des lieux et perspectives de son développement de l'aquaculture marine dans la zone COMHAFAT*', fera le point sur la situation de ce sous-secteur dans les différents pays de la Région.
- La 3^{ème} session portera sur la question des différents systèmes de production de l'aquaculture marine.
- La 4^{ème} session sera consacré aux orientations et recommandations pour le développement durable d'une aquaculture marine dans les pays de la zone COMHAFAT.

Chacune de ces sessions sera suivie d'un débat et les travaux de cet atelier seront clôturés par une visite des installations aquacoles de la société Aqua M'Diq et une visite du complexe de l'INRH à AMSA.

Avant de conclure mon intervention, permettez-moi de remercier avec insistance les Représentants des Autorités marocaines (DPM, INRH et ANDA) et les professionnels du secteur aquacole (AMA) qui ont tenu à s'associer directement à cet évènement pour partager avec les autres pays africains, les enseignements tirés de leurs expériences.

Je ne saurais terminer sans remercier tous nos partenaires à leur tête l'OFCE et les personnes ressources, d'avoir consacré leur temps à cette réflexion.

Merci de votre aimable attention et vous souhaite des discussions ouvertes et constructives, ainsi qu'une très fructueuse réunion.