

Workshop

Aquaculture in ATLAFCO zone: a potential in search of valorization M'Diq, Morocco, 13-14 and 15 April

RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. Noting** the rapid development of the aquaculture sector around the world, and its growing contribution in the human food;
- B. Considering** the strong potential of the aquaculture industry in the economic growth, the creation of jobs, the food and nutritional security, particularly in Africa;
- C. Agreeing** on the interest that represents this sector in the contribution to the reduction of the pressure on the aquatic resources and natural regeneration of some overfished stocks as well as in the preservation and development of certain coastal areas;
- D. Noting** the progress low level achieved by the sector at the level of the African continent, particularly in the Atlantic coast countries;
- E. Referring** to the various FAO resolutions on aquaculture development, in particular those stated in Article 9 of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries;
- F. Acting** in line with the strategies and actions advocated within the framework of the Pan-African Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy for the sustainable aquaculture development oriented on market and interventionist approaches;
- G. Taking** note of the main constraints and barriers to the aquaculture sector development in the countries of the region, particularly:
 - The absence of coherent, clear, specific and inclusive development strategy,
 - The complexity of the administrative procedures,
 - Inappropriate regulation,
 - Inadequate human, technical and financial resources,
 - A quasi-absent aquaculture scientific research,
 - The reticence of financial institutions to invest in this sector.
- H. Taking** into account the experiments conducted by some countries of the region and their relevant encouraging results;
- I. Aware** of the specificities, benefits and socio-economic roles of all types of aquaculture in the region,
- J. Mindful** of the need to maximize the socio-economic potential of aquaculture in pursuing the objectives of creating an enabling and supportive environment for the aquaculture sector to participate in the equitable, social and economic development in Africa;

THE PARTICIPANTS RECOMMEND:

At the national level

1. A governmental action promoting the development of this sector by establishing a coherent, clear, concerted and shared policy, fixed objectives and specific means to achieve it ;
2. The inclusion of the sectoral policy in the framework of global approaches to sustainable and responsible development and the blue growth initiative ;
3. The setup of a coherent and relevant legal and regulatory framework, protective and incentive for the sector investments ;
4. The establishment of an appropriate financial support in the form of, inter alia, investment aid, tax exemption and subsidized insurance schemes ;
5. The formulation of a commercial strategy based on the development of value chains and aimed at promoting the sector and its products, with priority targeting the local and sub-regional market in order to stabilize a minimum demand ;
6. The implementation of a comprehensive set of standards and controls to ensure health quality and marketing standards of aquaculture products ;

At the regional level

7. The application of the aquaculture development continental strategy, through actions at the regional level, facilitating the pooling of resources such as research centers, food production, capacity building, etc...;
8. Amplification of South-South strategic cooperation dedicated to the aquaculture development, through the exchange of experts, information sharing, transfer of technology and know-how, and technical and commercial exchanges, at the African states level ;
9. Encouragement of synergies and complementarities among the different institutions involved in fisheries cooperation at the sub-regional, regional or continental levels, particularly between AU-IBAR, ATLAFCO, SRFC, FCWC and COREP.