

## Sustainable aquaculture in Malawi



### Context

Fish is a popular food and the most important source of animal protein in Malawi. However, the country's future supply of fish products is uncertain, as the fish stocks in Lake Malawi are nearly exhausted. The availability of affordable fish in rural areas is diminishing while at the same time, the high population growth is increasing the demand for fish products – a demand that today's fisheries and aquaculture are less and less able to meet. In addition to the extreme poverty suffered by the people, the shortage of fish is a reason for the widespread malnutrition and undernutrition, which affect families and children in particular.

Fish from sustainable aquaculture offers a way to furnish the population with high-quality food and counteract malnutrition. The greatest obstacle to stepping up fish production is the lack of production inputs and management skills on the part of fish farmers, which would enable them to practise aquaculture in an environmentally compatible yet profitable manner that conserves resources. This deprives the local population of income and employment opportunities and the possibility of consuming affordable, nutritious fish products.

### Activities in Malawi

- **Boosting fish production:** Fish farmers (especially women) are trained with the aim of increasing their pond production in an environmentally, socially and economically sound manner.
- **Promoting know-how exchange:** A platform is being established that brings together the different stakeholders and interests of the aquaculture sector, enabling them to work together to develop practical approaches for further development of the sector.
- **Strengthening the value chain:** The project assists producers' associations so that small producers can increase the value gained from sustainable aquaculture.

- **Improving the conditions for sustainable and resource-conserving aquaculture:** Advice is provided for drafting and introducing legislation.

### Our objective

People facing food insecurity in Malawi have access to more fish products and a higher income derived from sustainable aquaculture that conserves resources.



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## Region

Regions around the capital city Lilongwe and the cities of Mzuzu, Salima and Blantyre

## Term

January 2018 to February 2022

## Budget

EUR 5 million

## Implementation partners

Department of Fisheries (DoF), Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR), Innovative Fish Farmers Network Trust (IFFNT)

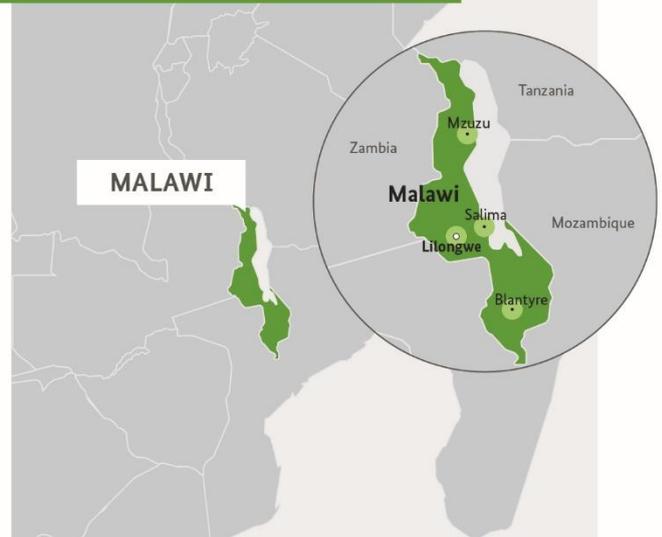
## Lead executing agency

Malawi Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism (MoITT)

## Target group

Producers working in pond aquaculture  
Small and medium-sized enterprises in the value chain  
Food-insecure population

## WHERE WE WORK



## An example from the field

Many pond fish farmers in Malawi face similar questions: How can I manage to produce enough fish to feed my family next year too? How can I boost yields? What production inputs are worthwhile and where can I buy them at low cost? How can I sell fish for a good price? It is difficult for them to answer these questions on their own. They need extension services, business skills, access to the appropriate production inputs and opportunities to network with stakeholders along the value chain.

This is where the project comes in. The bulk purchase of production inputs, collective sales and marketing of fish products, the organisation of training activities and exchange with other stakeholders in the value chain all enable small-scale producers to benefit from scale efficiency, and they provide clear advantages. For this reason, the project supports the structures of local associations and organisations. By setting up a multi-stakeholder platform, the project creates a forum in which all of the participants can come together and adopt concrete solutions. The goal is to raise income and generate employment along the entire value chain.



In addition, the project provides fish farmers with training focusing on sustainable aquaculture. They learn how to construct the ponds properly, select fish, maintain the fish stocks and also manage them profitably in the long term. The project takes special account of the specific needs and challenges arising for women.

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