



Programme Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture

The challenges

Fish is a vital resource. For the populations of developing countries, this applies in a dual sense: firstly, fish is a healthy food which can make a major contribution to combating undernourishment and malnutrition. And secondly, artisanal fishing provides employment and livelihoods for 500 millions people.

However, this livelihood base is under threat: 90 per cent of the world's fish stocks are already depleted or are being fished close to their maximum sustainable limits. And with the world population predicted to reach more than nine billion by the end of 2050, the problem is likely to worsen over the coming decades. This increases the demand for high-quality food and jobs. Because hunger, malnutrition and low incomes threaten the individual and inhibit the development of whole economies.

Why is fish getting scarcer?

- The growth and technicalization of the global fisheries has increased catches. The problem is exacerbated by illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, which is responsible for almost 20% of the fish caught worldwide.
- In many cases, the authorities at the local level are not able to monitor and enforce rules.
- Up to 50% of the catch in Africa is lost through spoilage. Fast transport, better cooling and processing methods reduce losses.
- Small-scale fishers and fish farmers have few opportunities to obtain training and information about efficient and sustainable production methods.
- Access to credit facilities is often limited. Fishers and fish farmers are thus unable to invest in improved technology.

The programme contributes to achieving these sustainable development goals:



At a glance

-  The programme operates in nine countries.
-  Budget: 64 million Euro (BMZ) and 2 million Euro (EU)
-  Term: 2017 to 2024

How we work

The programme works along the fish value chain and involves all stakeholders – from fisheries authorities to pond farmers. Government officials are advised to improve conditions for sustainable artisanal fisheries and aquaculture. Intermediary organisations such as training and research institutions are strengthened to ensure a long-term offer of needs-based advisory services. Fishers learn how to manage fish stocks sustainably so that they continue to produce viable yields in the future. Pond farmers learn how to build new ponds, choose fingerlings and operate profitably in the long run. Efficient processing techniques help to reduce the waste of fish. Public campaigns promote fish as a healthy food.

The programme creates new and sustainable livelihoods in fishing and fish processing and curbs illegal fishing. Local communities gain access to a broader range of fish products. The programme thus helps to combat hunger and poverty.

Sustainable aquaculture in practice: the rice-fish system

What to farm – fish or rice? Some producers in Madagascar don't need to choose – with their rice-fish system, they can produce both in parallel. Conditions in the flooded rice fields are ideal for carp. In addition, the presence of the carp benefits rice cultivation: they churn up the silt at the bottom of the pond and thus boosting rice yields by as much as 10 per cent.

Sustainable, resource-efficient fish farming and higher yields: it's a winning combination. That is why in Madagascar, a programme objective is to roll out the rice-fish system. The programme is targeted at rice farmers, particularly women who grow and process the crop. Training sessions and examples of best practice help farmers identify suitable production areas, make optimum use of their fields for aquaculture and consider all the relevant factors for high-quality stock management.

In this way, the programme contributes to improve local people's food security and nutritional status in Madagascar.

The programme aims to

- ➔ Increase the supply of sustainably sourced fish
- ➔ Boost jobs and incomes
- ➔ Curb illegal fishing
- ➔ Protect natural resources
- ➔ Empower women



Farmers stock their rice fields with fish.
Photo: © APDRA/Nambiniaina Rabalijaona

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