

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, which affects 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.

Our objective

The food insecure population of Malawi has access to more fish products and a higher income from sustainable and resource-conserving aquaculture in pond farming.

Activities in Malawi

- **Enhancing fish production of 4,500 farmers by 50%** in an environmentally, socially and economically sound manner.
- **Strengthening the value chain to increase the value gain:** 130 economic groups of small producers are supported.
- **Capacitating 20 female-led fish farmer groups** to implement innovative, energy-efficient fish processing and marketing concepts.
- **Policy advance and support** is provided to the Department of Fisheries regarding strengthen the existing Aquaculture Legislation.
- **Establishing a multi-stakeholder platform** to promote knowledge exchange.
- **Roll-out of the aquaculture curriculum** in cooperation with Malawi College of Fisheries and Stephanos Vocational Training Centre.
- **Sensitization of 24,000 primary school students at 40 schools** about the value of fish for human nutrition.



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Region

North: Rumphu, Mzimba and Nkhatabay District

Central: Ntchisi, Kasungu, Mchinji, Dedza, Dowa, Salima and Lilongwe District

South: Chiradzulu, Mwanza, Blantyre, Zomba, Phalombe, Mulanje and Thyolo District

Term

January 2018 to October 2023

Budget

EUR 11,200,000

Implementing partners

Department of Fisheries (DoF), Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR), Innovative Fish Farmers Network Trust (IFFNT), WorldFish Center (WFC), National Aquaculture Centre (NAC), Malawi College of Fisheries (MCF), Consortium COFAD/GOPA/UMODZI

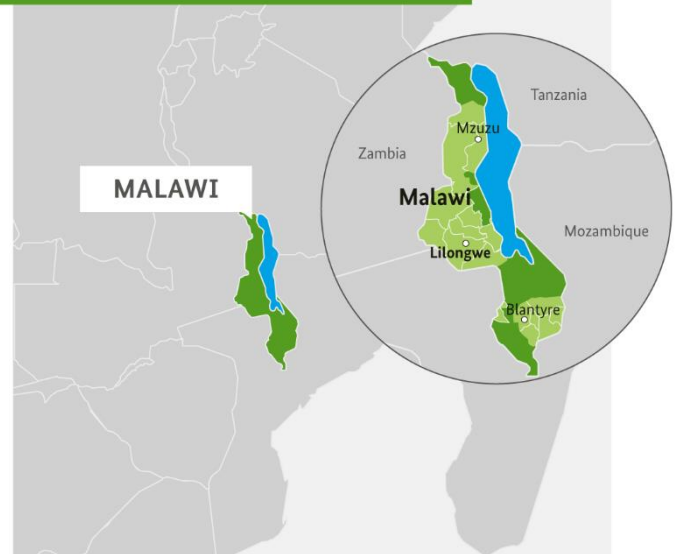
Lead executing agency

Malawi Ministry of Trade and Industry

Target group

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

WHERE WE WORK



A real-life example

Mr. John Thawani lives in a village in Phalombe district. He is a husband and father of seven children. For most of his life he worked primarily as a vehicle mechanic, but after facing some financial challenges due to low salary earnings, he decided to venture into pond fish farming. In his course of exploring this idea, Mr. Thawani learnt that dwindling fish stocks in the lake and the corresponding rise in demand posed a lucrative opportunity for a good business venture with high chances of profit return. Eventually, Mr. Thawani started pond fish farming in 2018. Now he is rearing Malawi's favourite fish Chambo (*Oreochromis karongae*) in a single pond. However, the potential for further growth is limited due to the lack of high-quality fingerlings and feed, which will be addressed in the training of 4,500 fish farmers provided by the project.



Mr. Odoi Mwangonde lives in Mzuzu and is a husband and father of five children. He developed a passion for fish farming and decided to make a living out of it.

In 2014, Mr. Mwangonde started fish farming, rearing the local aquaculture species Makumba (*Oreochromis shiranus*) and Chilunguni (*Tilapia rendalli*) and has managed to increase the number of his ponds from 1 to 13. The aim of activities in Malawi is to stabilize these enterprises by an increase in production by 50% in order to enable more farmers to get a higher income from pond farming and to provide the population with high-quality food to counteract malnutrition. Both, Mr. Thawani and Mr. Mwangonde, have partnered with other fish farmers. However, these groups are rather opportunistic and not well organised. The aim is to improve the organisation of farmers, creating operational economic groups and enabling members to receive services and inputs.

Even though these farmers have been successful, they also face challenges. Malawian farmers are constantly worried about lack of quality fingerlings and feed, which hinders production increase. The farmers believe that initiatives, such as the Aquaculture Round Table, are the long-awaited platform to bring these challenges to the attention of all stakeholders, in order to finally tackle them.

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