



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

# FISH4ACP

Unlocking the potential  
of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture  
in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific



## The Gambia

**FISH4ACP** aims to enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the mangrove oyster value chain in The Gambia to improve food security and incomes for rural communities, ensuring that economic improvements go hand in hand with environmental sustainability and social inclusiveness.

### WHAT WE **focus** on

- ➔ **Value chain analysis and upgrading strategy** to make oyster sector more resilient and boost profits with increased production.
- ➔ **Supporting improvements in managing** oyster stocks for more sustainable exploitation of wild oysters.
- ➔ **Developing new production methods** to aid the emerging oyster aquaculture sector.
- ➔ **Diversifying and expanding markets** for oysters and oyster shells.
- ➔ **Providing a more enabling environment and improve working conditions** for value chain actors to stimulate investments.

#### VALUE CHAIN AT A GLANCE

### Mangrove oysters (*Crassostrea gasar (tulipa)*)



#### PRODUCTION METHOD

Wild harvesting  
and aquaculture

#### VOLUMES \*

9 450  
tonnes  
whole oyster

#### VALUE \*

USD  
1 400 000

\*estimate FISH4ACP value chain analysis, primary production \*\* sales value





## Facts & figures

Approximately **1 200** people are employed in mangrove oyster harvesting, processing and retailing - around **90 %** are **women**.

Aquaculture accounts for around **2%** of total production of **9 450 tonnes**. An estimated **200 tonnes** of oysters in-shell are farmed each year on bamboo racks.

Oysters are processed by communities at landing sites, before sale on the market. **Over 90% of oysters** are sold in boiled or steamed form with the remainder sold smoked or dried.

There is **no wastage** in the value chain. All oysters collected and processed are sold or self-consumed (**< 10%**).

The Gambia is an important producer of mangrove oyster, a commercially important oyster harvested from mangrove areas along the West African coast. Most Gambian oysters are collected in the Tanbi Wetland National Park and the North Bank Region, the West Coast Region, and the Lower River Region.

Oyster harvesting is mainly done by women. The oysters are cut from mangrove roots at low tide. They are sold on the local market, where demand is strong. There are no formal oyster exports, although some informal cross-border trade takes place with Senegal.

**FISH4ACP** aims to enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the mangrove oyster sector in The Gambia by supporting management improvements, new aquaculture methods, the sale of new products and by-products, and a more enabling environment, which is likely to generate employment, particularly for poor women from marginalized communities.



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