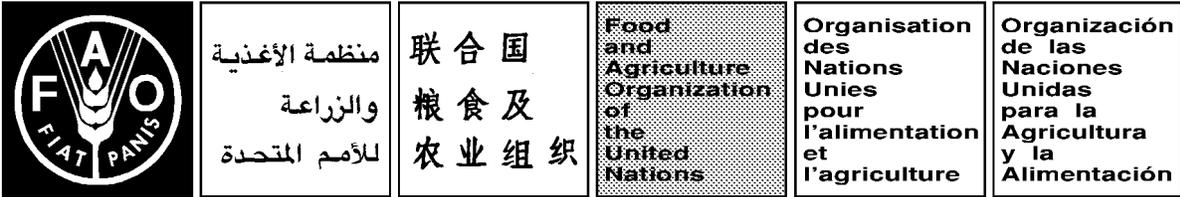


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FISHERY COMMITTEE FOR THE EASTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC

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Intra ACP Blue Growth Program for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture value chains

1. The Intra ACP Blue Growth Program for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture value chains (shortened to Fish4ACP) aims to reinforce the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture value chains in order to contribute to economic Growth, decent jobs creation, food and nutrition security in ACP countries. The DG DEVCO endorsed the ACP request for EDF-11 funding (40 million euros) for Fish4ACP in March 2019.
2. This Program employs a strategic value chains development approach to *strengthen the fisheries and aquaculture value chains in order to contribute to secure and enhance the role that fisheries and aquaculture sectors plays in the food security and nutrition, employment creation and export revenues of ACP countries.*
3. Thus, this 5 years Program focus is to enhance the economic performance of the beneficiary value chains while ensuring that they are socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable. The expected results are:
 - ✓ Improved knowledge of the functioning of value chains and specific improvement strategies are developed ;
 - ✓ Increased economic performance of the value chain of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) through strengthened market access, conducive business and regulatory environment ;
 - ✓ Improved inclusiveness and the social sustainability of selected value chains;
 - ✓ Enhances environmental sustainability of selected value chains through improved management of natural resources and increased consideration for climate change and ;
 - ✓ Facilitate MSME's access to additional sources of finance and investment.

4. In order to achieve measurable impacts, the programme activities voluntarily focus on a limited number of selected fisheries and aquaculture value chains. FAO as implementing partner has signed a contribution agreement to implement the programme. To this end, FAO undertook several activities, which included working with the ACP Secretariat and DG DEVCO to identify the 10 value chains based on nominations from eligible ACP countries.
5. The formal call for nominations for value chains was sent out the 1st of April 2019 to the ACP countries by the ACP Secretariat through the ACP ambassadors / embassies in Brussels. The deadline for proposal submissions was 30th April 2019. Between July and August 2019, FAO, with the support of various regional partners (INFOFOSH, WorldFish, and the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism), has convened a series of value chain prioritization workshops for African, Caribbean and Pacific value chain nominations. These workshops took place in Auckland, New Zealand (Pacific), Lusaka, Zambia (Eastern/Southern and Central/Western Africa) and St. Vincent and the Grenadines (Caribbean). In total 79 proposals were received, of which 64 were ultimately eligible and were considered for shortlisting and presentation by national stakeholders at the regional workshops. The workshops resulted in extremely successful outputs and invaluable information provided for assessing the merits of the proposals directly from national and regional stakeholders involved in the value chains both currently and as key future partners in the development of the final ten selected value chains
6. The 24 proposals that were subsequently shortlisted were selected based on a thorough and rigorous assessment completed in coordination with the ACP Secretariat and the European Union DG/DEVCO. The criteria used for the selection of the 24 shortlisted value chains (8 Eastern/Southern African, 8 Central/Western African, 4 Caribbean and 4 Pacific) was developed jointly by FAO Trade and Markets (ESA) and Fisheries and Aquaculture (FI) technical staff including decentralized fisheries and aquaculture officers from the six ACP regions. These criteria were based on the FAO Sustainable Food Value Chain (SFVC) development approach and custom tailored to fisheries and aquaculture value chains for the specific purpose of this project.
7. Having concluded the process for the regional selection and prioritization workshops for the six ACP regions, FAO is now finalizing the prioritization of the value chains for further discussion with the ACP Secretariat and DG/DEVCO for final selection of the 10 value chains.
8. In addition to the selection and prioritization workshops, the USD 500 000 FAO TCP/INT/3704 allowed for the establishment of a joint value chain analysis (VCA) methodology, based on a combination of the FAO/SFVC approach and specific elements of the EU Value Chain Analysis for Development (VCA4D) framework. This merged methodology specific to the project is currently being finalized and will be ready for application across the ten value chains upon launch of the Fish4ACP project in January 2020.

9. The discussions and thorough questioning on the merits, opportunities and challenges of the value chain proposals presented by national stakeholders during the workshops was a participatory effort involving both regional partners, the other countries represented in the regions, and FAO colleagues from ESA and FI, with staff from both Rome HQ and subregional offices participating.
10. The final ten value chains to be developed under the Fish4ACP project will be formally announced by the ACP Secretariat and DG/DEVCO between mid-September and the end of October of this year. It is anticipated that the Fish4ACP funding agreement between DG/DEVCO and FAO will be signed at the Our Ocean Conference to be held in Oslo, Norway, 23-24 October 2019. Recruitment for the project management unit to be based at FAO HQ in Rome is currently ongoing and interviews will take place between now and the end of the year, with all indications pointing to a full project launch in January 2020.
11. Although the full Fish4ACP Project has not yet started activities, FAO has already received strong indication from some donors who have expressed interest in funding similar value chain development and upgrading activities. As such, FAO is quite optimistic that, particularly given the strength of the proposals and initial development strategies presented during the regional workshops, some of those that were not selected for development under the Fish4ACP project may benefit from further opportunities to be selected and funded by other donors. Indeed, several technical and financial partners are already recognizing the benefit of taking this type of approach to sustainable development of the fisheries and aquaculture sector through a value chain approach based on sound analysis and targeted interventions to achieve the greatest impact for the greatest number of beneficiaries.