



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Supporting marine cage culture development in the Islamic Republic of Iran

To improve national capacities and developing framework
for marine cage culture development and management

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

The Islamic Republic of Iran ranks second in the Middle East and 17th in the world in terms of total aquaculture production. Aquaculture production in the Islamic Republic of Iran constitutes roughly 40 percent of total fish production and 10 percent of agricultural exports of the country, which accounts for about 1 percent of overall national Gross Domestic Product.

As a result of the increasing impacts of climate change, including the sharp precipitation decline during recent years and consequently the shortage of available freshwater, marine cage culture has been identified as a key national priority to supply animal proteins, healthy food and alternative livelihoods to the people of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Yet the Country is facing a number of challenges in cage culture development, such as

insufficient technical know-how, technologies and equipment; general shortage of specific expertise within the cage culture sub-sector and government institutions; inadequate marketing plan for cage culture productions, and insufficient supplies of fingerlings of the commercial species cultured.

Expected results

At the request of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is implementing a Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) to assist the Country in improving its marine cage culture sub-sector. These include technical capacities as well as supporting the Government's efforts to sustainably increase the production from this aquaculture sub-sector. The national long-term goal is of 900 000 tonnes of fish produced annually.



FAO'S CONTRIBUTION

As the United Nations specialised agency leading global efforts in supporting sustainable production of food and agriculture, FAO offers technical expertise to its member countries, and focusing on strengthening national capacities to formulate and implement projects as well as to adopt recommended measures, practices and promote policies that will ensure the sustainable growth of the food production sector. This project in particular, focuses on marine cage culture as alternative supply sources of healthy animal proteins, while providing alternative livelihoods particularly to coastal communities.

Recognizing the technical and environmental challenges in expanding the marine cage culture sector, the Organization works with the Islamic Republic of Iran in crafting sustainable development strategies to harness technical improvements in feed production, species selection, biosecurity and disease control, and digital innovations, while setting the foundations for reliable investments and an effective trade flow.

In the framework of this TCP project, FAO mobilises international and national expertise on marine cage culture, supporting the assessment, research and development, management, as well as pilot design and site selection, all aimed at contributing to strengthening Iranian capacities in terms of knowledge, skills and management on marine cage culture. Also in close collaboration with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, FAO organises a series of training workshops for national experts and practitioners.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Developing a plan for diversification of marine and brackish water cage culture.
- Recommending specific courses syllabus and research program in the academic institutes for MSc and PhD programmes in fisheries and aquaculture.
- Developing a manual on good aquaculture practices for marine cage culture.
- Training marine cage culture managers and local extension workers.
- Conducting hands-on trainings for farmers on good marine cage culture practices.
- Transferring advanced knowledge on marine finfish seed production technology and marine cage culture management.
- Pilot testing cage monitoring equipment to improve daily management in cage operation and cultured fish stock.



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Main partner

This project is being implemented in close partnership with the Iran Fisheries Organization, the national counterpart of the project which has the overall responsibility for the management of aquaculture and fisheries in the country.

Budget

FAO has allocated USD 292 000 for this TCP project and mobilised to support national efforts in developing plans and frameworks for sustainable development and management of marine, aquaculture, and coastal ecosystems and resources in the country.

Contact

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**Iran Fisheries Organization
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