



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

# FISH4ACP

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



## Zimbabwe

**FISH4ACP** aims to work towards a productive, expanding and sustainable tilapia aquaculture industry in Zimbabwe, contributing to poverty reduction, as well as improving food security and stimulating economic growth across the landlocked nation.

### VALUE CHAIN AT A GLANCE

## Nile tilapia

(*Oreochromis niloticus*)



#### PRODUCTION METHOD

Aquaculture



#### VOLUME \*

10 500  
tonnes



#### VALUE \*

USD  
31.5  
million

\* Primary production

### WHAT WE **focus** on

- ➔ **Value chain analysis** to improve the Zimbabwean tilapia aquaculture value chain.
- ➔ **Expanding tilapia aquaculture production** and opening it up to new markets.
- ➔ **Unlocking the potential of smallholder fish farmers** using sustainable practices.
- ➔ Increasing the production of **high-quality fish for local consumption** and export.
- ➔ Facilitating an **enabling regulatory environment** to reduce entry barriers and support growth.





Zimbabwe's aquaculture sector has yet to take off despite the country's abundant water resources — it has over 12 000 dams — and conducive warm water conditions. Its aquaculture production of 10 500 tonnes accounts for nearly 80 percent of the total annual production of Nile tilapia in Zimbabwe.

The country's per capita fish consumption is well below the average in the Southern African Development Community (SADC). This means that consumption of tilapia in Zimbabwe can be increased significantly, if production costs can be decreased to reduce retail prices.

FISH4ACP's priority areas include scaling-up production by improving access to quality inputs and technical know-how. Its overarching goal is to facilitate strong fish farming businesses in a conducive regulatory environment, linking smallholders to domestic and export markets as a means of reducing poverty.

FISH4ACP also aims to increase employment and the contribution of aquaculture to Zimbabwe's gross domestic product by supporting an economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable fish farming sector.

## Facts & figures

Zimbabwe's **per capita fish consumption** of **2.6 kg** is significantly below the average of **6 kg** in other Southern African countries.

Zimbabwe is home to one of Africa's largest integrated tilapia producers, Lake Harvest Aquaculture, which employs hundreds of people and accounts for nearly **90%** of the **production of Nile tilapia** in the country.

The **retail price** of Nile tilapia is higher in Zimbabwe than in many other African countries with retail prices hitting **USD 3/kg**, twice the regional average.

**Demand** for fish has **outgrown domestic supply**, with the most popular imported fish being frozen mackerel from Namibia.

Regional markets like Zambia and South Africa offer potential to increase exports of Zimbabwean tilapia, with over **1 000 tonnes** worth some **USD 2.5 million** exported to Zambia in 2018.



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**FISH4ACP** is an initiative of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) aimed at making fisheries and aquaculture value chains in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific more sustainable. It is implemented by FAO and partners with funding from the European Union (EU) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

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