



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, increase exports, create jobs and stimulate investment. FISH4ACP will ensure that economic improvements go hand in hand with environmental sustainability and social inclusiveness.

VALUE CHAIN AT A GLANCE

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



PRODUCTION METHOD

Wild harvesting
and aquaculture

VOLUMES *

1 720
tonnes
whole oyster

VALUE *

USD
240 000

* Primary production

WHAT WE **focus** on

- Value chain analysis to **better understand** Gambia's mangrove oyster sector.
- Promote the development of **oyster aquaculture and the optimal utilization** of byproducts.
- Strengthen **the regulatory framework** for food safety and make the sector **more environmentally sustainable**.
- **Improve working conditions** along the value chain.
- Help businesses access **key inputs and additional sources of finance** and investment.





Facts & figures

Oyster culture is in an infant stage and **offers great opportunities for growth.**

Oysters are cooked, smoked and dried, pickled, bottled, fresh and frozen. **Processing** is carried out in makeshift sites **in the open.**

Approximately **2 400** people are employed in mangrove oyster harvesting, the **majority** of which are **women.**

Important regional markets for the Gambia's mangrove oysters are Senegal, Guinea-Bissau and Ghana.

The Gambia is an important producer of mangrove oyster, a commercially important oyster harvested from mangrove areas in several countries along the West African coast. An important production area in the Gambia is the Tanbi Wetlands National Park at the mouth of the Gambia River.

Oysters are mostly harvested by female artisanal fishers from mangrove roots at low tide. They are subsequently cooked before the meat is removed from the shell and supplied to both local and regional markets. The lack of a national shellfish sanitation programme hampers access to international markets.

FISH4ACP aims to enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the mangrove oyster sector in the Gambia by adding value, improving market access and developing oyster culture, which is likely to generate employment, particularly for poor women from marginalized communities.

FISH4ACP will work to increase the production of small-scale producers in the sector and strengthen the role of women and youth, while seeking to improve safety and workers' rights. At the same time, it will support efforts to optimise the utilization of byproducts from oyster processing.



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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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