



# COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

## SUB-COMMITTEE ON FISH TRADE

### Nineteenth Session

11-15 September 2023

## SUMMARY OF THE ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE COFI SUB-COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE

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- From 16 to 19 May 2023, the twelfth Session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI:AQ) was held in Hermosillo, State of Sonora, Mexico. The Sub-Committee commended FAO's work during the intersessional period, supported FAO's efforts to promote aquaculture and expressed appreciation for its global capacity development activities, the work on aquatic genetic resources and biosecurity, aquatic animal health and antimicrobial resistance in particular.
- COFI:AQ emphasized the importance of aquaculture to food security and nutrition, livelihoods, economic development, public health, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It acknowledged aquaculture as an important topic for international cooperation. It encouraged FAO to use South-South and triangular cooperation to facilitate the technology exchange for the Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture (EAA). The Sub-Committee recommended FAO prioritise work on small-scale aquaculture and requested FAO develop guidance on climate change adaptation and mitigation for aquaculture, noting that unfed aquaculture can produce aquatic foods with a low environmental and carbon footprint.
- The Sub-Committee approved the Guidelines for Sustainable Aquaculture (GSA), recommending it to inform FAO's future programmatic work. COFI:AQ called on FAO to raise awareness of the GSA, promote good practices, seek innovative and sustainable sources of funding to provide technical assistance and advice to Members and investigate all platforms and partnerships to support its implementation, including the Global Sustainable Aquaculture Advancement Partnership.
- The Sub-Committee recognized the persistent gender inequalities in aquaculture, called for the development and implementation of more prominent actions towards equality and women's empowerment, and requested FAO to investigate the formation of a Member-based working group and network on Women in Aquaculture. COFI:AQ noted the potential contribution of seaweed aquaculture to global food production, livelihoods and income generation and the need for additional support and

investment to identify suitable farming areas and integrated farming opportunities, as well as to address food safety, disease, genetics and market-related challenges. The Sub-Committee acknowledged that capacity building is still necessary and requested that FAO continue its technical assistance in seaweed aquaculture.

5. The Sub-Committee welcomed FAO's Blue Transformation Roadmap, reaffirmed its support for the core global objectives and targets, and recommended using EAA and adding public perception towards aquaculture. COFI:AQ recognized that the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) remains a cornerstone for responsible aquaculture practices and urged all Members to respond to the CCRF-Aquaculture Questionnaire, particularly considering the significant decline in the responses rate in its most recent edition. The Sub-Committee underlined the importance of maintaining the CCRF-Aquaculture Questionnaire as the sole reporting instrument to the Sub-Committee, including for GSA implementation.

6. The Sub-Committee was informed about the results of three side events (1) the potential for brine shrimp *Artemia* production for aquaculture transformation, (2) sharing knowledge, tools and best practices towards sustainable and responsible aquaculture investment, and (3) Sustainable Aquaculture in Mexico. COFI:AQ expressed broad support for the future work of the International Artemia Aquaculture Consortium and encouraged FAO to do additional work on the topic. The Sub-Committee also requested FAO to pay special attention to small-scale aquaculture producers, especially women, based on recommendations from the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022.

7. The Sub-Committee welcomed the kind offers of Türkiye and Indonesia to host its Thirteenth and Fourteenth Sessions, respectively.

8. The Session's final report is currently being edited and will be available in all six official FAO languages at <https://www.fao.org/about/meetings/cofi-sub-committee-on-aquaculture/en>.