



ASIA-PACIFIC FISHERY COMMISSION

Executive Committee

Seventy-fifth Session

Colombo, Sri Lanka, 11-13 November 2014

APFIC INTER-SESSIONAL ACTIVITIES – AQUACULTURE INTENSIFICATION AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO BLUE GROWTH

1. The Thirty-third Session of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC) endorsed the proposed workplan presented by the secretariat, based on the recommendations of the Seventh-fourth Executive Committee Meeting. The workplan is presented as an information document EXCO/14/INF 05.
2. The APFIC biennial workplan agrees to an FAO/APFIC regional consultative workshop on the identified Commission priority theme covering the specific area of aquaculture feeds and feeding.
3. This was intended to cover the technical aspects of: improved feeds for aquaculture, including low cost feeds; Improved responsibility and traceability of fish meal (in partnership with IFFO improvers programme/REBYC II/Thai Fishmeal Dialogue); reduction of fish meal use in aquaculture feeds; the economic and technical case for use of formulated feed replacing fresh/trash fish; and feed alternatives supporting emerging aquaculture.
4. However, the Commission at its Thirty-third Session also recommended further regional consultation to prioritize necessary actions at regional and national levels. This should develop a strategic action plan for supporting:
 - a. sustainable intensification of aquaculture in the region
 - b. actions related to the development of low-cost, efficient fish feeds and the use of renewable energy or energy efficient systems, which would contribute to climate change mitigation or increased resource-use efficiency
 - c. to move forward in developing “Aquaculture planning and management toolkit” related training materials and an application manual of the tools. The Commission further recommended to start pilot level application of selected tools in member countries with strong interest.
 - d. the value of implementing the Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture (EAA)
 - e. more work to better understand the carrying capacity of cage culture
 - f. how aquaculture in upland areas can contribute to nutrition and income support to livelihoods and contribute to blue growth

- g. the development of guidelines for improved aquatic biosecurity
5. The Secretariat has reviewed the range of recommendations and how it may be possible to respond. In doing so, the APFIC Secretariat must attempt to ensure greater harmonization with the ongoing FAO Asia-Pacific Regional Initiative for “Blue Growth” as this is now an important resourcing vehicle for the work of the Commission and a mechanism for resource mobilization in the region.

APFIC/FAO/NACA/DOF REGIONAL CONSULTATION (November 2014)

6. On 27-28 November 2014, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, will convene a “*Regional Consultation on Strategy and Action Plan for Sustainable Intensification of Aquaculture in Asia-Pacific*”. This directly responds to the recommendation above and will contribute to the planned APFIC regional workshop in 2015. The prospectus of the consultation is provided as APFIC:EXCO/14/INF 07.

7. The objective of the regional consultation is to finalize the Regional Strategy for Sustainable Intensification of Aquaculture and develop a practical and implementable Regional Action Plan. This Regional Strategy and the Action Plan should set clear vision, goals and strategies towards 2030, as well as detailed action plan, including short-term (1-2 years) and medium-term (towards 2030) action, for sustainable intensification of aquaculture in Asia.

8. The outputs of this consultation will be:
- a. A Regional Strategy for Sustainable Intensification of Aquaculture discussed, elaborated and finalized based on comments and inputs provided by the participants.
 - b. An Action Plan for Sustainable Intensification of Aquaculture including short-term (initial 1–2 years) and medium-term (2015–2030) actions discussed and agreed (with the indication of responsible institutions and indicative resource requirement).
 - c. Regional level coordination mechanism discussed and agreed.

APFIC REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP (March 2015)

9. Responding to the recommendations to take action related to the development of low-cost, efficient fish feeds and the use of renewable energy or energy efficient systems, which would contribute to climate change mitigation, or increased resource-use efficiency. The Secretariat proposes to re-task the feed-focused regional workshop and broaden its remit to cover how improved performance of aquaculture systems (including feeds) can contribute to sustainable intensification and blue growth.

10. A working title for the workshop is proposed as: “*Documentation and dissemination of successful sustainable aquaculture intensification practices in Asia*”.

11. The purpose of the consultation is to: “*Identify and document how sustainable intensification of aquaculture (SIA) contributing to blue growth in the member countries and promote awareness of successful SIA practices to contribute to blue growth in the region.*”

12. The review and discussions of the workshop would cover:
- a. Improved management at an area level
 - Benefits/need for aquaculture zonation
 - Area level/zonal management of aquaculture production
 - Health management/biosecurity control
 - b. Improved management of culture systems
 - Semi-closed culture systems (addressing biosecurity and environment impacts, reduced water use)

- Heterotrophic culture systems (application of bio-flocs, lower protein feeds)
 - Multi-trophic culture systems (mariculture, polyculture)
 - Integrated systems (e.g. fish culture in rice system, aqua-silviculture)
- c. Improved inputs and their application :
- Improved feed and feeding practices (e.g. alternatives to fish meal; change from fresh trash/low valued fish to pellet, particularly marine)
 - Production and use of SPF seedstock and improved breeds
 - Mechanization
 - Efficacy (or redundancy) of other inputs (e.g. probiotics, vaccines, antibiotics chemo-therapeutants etc.)
 - Reduction of energy use (including carbon footprint)

13. The preparations for the workshop would:

- a. Develop criteria for the successful practices
- b. Contact member countries and individual contact persons for recommendation of successful practices/cases
- c. Selection of successful practices/cases for documentation
- d. Identify country experts to document selected successful practices/cases
- e. Convene the regional workshop
- f. Finalize the publication and distribution of the examples

SUGGESTED ACTIONS BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

14. The Executive Committee is invited to review the prospectus and proposed coverage of these two regional activities, taking into account the recommendations of the Thirty-third Session and the availability of funding support.