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Executive Committee

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REGIONAL CONSULTATION ON STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN FOR SUSTAINABLE INTENSIFICATION OF AQUACULTURE IN ASIA-PACIFIC



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations



Bangkok, Thailand, 27-28 November 2014

Background

Intensification of aquaculture has been an ongoing process in the region, which aims to increase the productivity and economic efficiency of aquaculture production through intensified use of inputs (materials, energy and investment) and resources (water, feed ingredients), application of new technologies and improved management practices.

Intensification of aquaculture has been a major contributor to the rapid aquaculture production growth in the Asia in the past two decades (nearly 10 percent annually), which has significantly contributed to food and nutrition security and livelihoods in the region. The region has constantly contributed over 90 percent of the world aquaculture production for decades. Aquaculture currently supplies 50 percent food fish for the world and in Asia, aquaculture supplies over 60 percent food fish, comprising over 20 percent of total protein intake by the Asian population. Needless to say, that there have been repercussions of intensification, which have attracted considerable public concern regarding the long-term sustainability of the sector.

Being the most populous region of the world with heavy demands on natural resources, Asian aquaculture will face great challenges to maintain its growth, to meet the increasing demand for fish inside and outside the region over the coming decades. It is estimated that

fish consumption in Asia and the Pacific will increase by 30 percent by 2030. It implies the aquaculture production will need to increase by 50 percent by 2030. At the same time, the aquaculture sector is facing a lot of challenges, such as impact of climate change and variability, urbanization and related social and economic changes, increasing intra-regional trade and increasing concern over the environment and food safety by the public.

Working with limited natural resource and various challenges, the only way to meet the increasing demand for fish is to promote **Sustainable Intensification of Aquaculture (SIA)**, which means “to produce more with less”- to increase the productivity and efficiency in aquaculture production with reduced consumption to resources and negative environmental and social impacts through improved governance, management practices and adoption of innovative technologies.

The need for Sustainable Intensification in aquaculture production together with application of ecosystem approach to aquaculture has been a subject of several international fora and among priority recommendations from the work of FAO and from regional bodies such as Network of Aquaculture Centers in Asia-Pacific (NACA) and Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC) and the Phuket Consensus emanating from the Global Conference on Aquaculture in 2010. The Ministerial Meeting on Aquaculture for Food Security, Nutrition and Economic Development in July 2011 in Sri Lanka has further identified 4 basic tenets to sustainable Aquaculture strategy: Responsible access to and use of Aquatic Genetic Resources and Genetic improvement; sustainable farming systems, Aquatic animal health including responsible trans-boundary movement of aquatic animals, and responses to Climate change impacts. In order to promote sustainable intensification of aquaculture, FAO supported a joint APFIC/NACA regional consultation on Sustainable Intensification of Aquaculture Production in Asia-Pacific (held in Bangkok, Thailand October 2012). The consultation provided a good platform for wide exchange and sharing of scientific knowledge and practical experiences related to SIA and identified the needs for scientific research and technology development to support SIA. As the effort of FAO in promoting SIA, the recently convened 32nd FAO Asia and the Pacific Regional Conference (APRC) included a working paper “Meeting farmers’ aspirations in the context of green development” that highlighted “Sustainable Production Intensification” and an information paper “Sustainable intensification of aquaculture for food and nutritional security in the Asia-Pacific region”.

As the follow up to earlier FAO initiatives promoting SIA, the 5th Regional Consultative Forum Meeting (RCFM) of APFIC (held in Hyderabad, India from 19-21 June 2014) included an individual aquaculture session titled “Promoting Sustainable Intensification of Aquaculture for food and nutritional security in the Asia-Pacific region”. The RCFM acknowledged that a transition to sustainable production intensification in agriculture should focus on supporting the prosperity of farming and rural communities, while addressing key sustainability issues related to management of land and water resources. The RCFM put forwarded a complete set of recommendations on priority actions in five major areas related to sustainable intensification of aquaculture in the region, which was presented to and endorsed by the 33rd Session of APFIC.

In order to provide more substantial support to member countries in promoting sustainable intensification of aquaculture, the SIA has now been included as the Asia Regional Initiative of FAO’s Global Blue Growth Initiative (BGI).

Although FAO and other regional and international organizations have launched various initiatives to raise the awareness and identify priority actions related to SIA and efforts have been made by international/regional organizations, country governments, civil society organizations and private sector to achieve sustainable intensification of aquaculture on the ground, **there is a lack of a well articulated regional strategy and comprehensive action plan** to guide and support the concerted efforts of different stakeholders to support the sustainable intensification of aquaculture in the region. Therefore, the 33rd Session of the

Asian and Pacific Fishery Commission recommended for **further regional consultation to prioritize necessary actions at regional and national levels and to develop strategic action plan for supporting sustainable intensification of aquaculture in the region.**

Purpose

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. This strategy and the action plan are expected to serve as a basis to negotiate potential donors and international organizations for financial support for implementation. The consultation will also assist in promoting coordinated and concerted efforts of member governments, regional and international organizations, donor and development agencies and industrial sector to support the sustainable intensification of aquaculture in the region.

Organizers

This regional multi-stakeholder consultation is funded and organised by FAO in collaboration with the Network of Aquaculture Centers in Asia-Pacific, the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission and Department of Fisheries of Royal Thai Government (Thai DOF). The consultation will be participated by representatives from member countries, major regional and international organizations, Civil Society Organizations and Private sector representatives, and representatives from industrial sectors and some donor and development agencies. This two-day consultation will be held in Bangkok from 27 to 28 November 2014.

Preparatory Activities

A regional Technical Cooperation Programme Facility (TCPF) project has been initiated with the view to review recent regional and international policy, strategy and prioritization documents related to sustainable development and intensification of aquaculture. This review will lead to prepare a draft document entitled **Regional Strategy for Sustainable Intensification of Aquaculture in Asia-Pacific**, which will be presented to the regional multi-stakeholder consultation planned from 27-28 November 2014. This strategy document is expected to enhance awareness and commitment of country governments, regional and international organizations, industrial sectors and donor and development agencies to sustainable intensification of aquaculture in Asia and the Pacific.

Expected Outputs

The consultation is expected to produce the following outputs:

1. A Regional Strategy for Sustainable Intensification of Aquaculture discussed, elaborated and finalized based on comments and inputs provided by the participants.
2. 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).
3. Regional level coordination mechanism discussed and agreed.
4. Meeting report produced with the inclusion of conclusions and recommendations and above two outputs (1 and 2) in annexes.



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Regional Consultation on Strategy and Action Plan for Sustainable Intensification of Aquaculture in the Asia-Pacific

Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

27-28 November 2014

26 November 2014	
Arrival of Participants	
27 November 2014	
0800 - 0900	Registration and Assembly
0900 - 0930	Opening Session: Welcome/opening remarks by: • Director General, NACA • Director General, Department of Fisheries, Thailand • Assistant Director General, FAO-RAP
0930 - 0945	Introduction to the consultation (FAO)
0945 - 1015	Group photo and Coffee break
1015 - 1045	Presentation on Review on policy and strategy recommendations related to sustainable development and intensification of aquaculture from recent regional and global events (Consultant)
1045 - 1115	Plenary discussion on the review
1115 - 1145	Draft Regional Strategy for sustainable intensification of aquaculture in Asia-Pacific (presented by consultant)
1145-1230	Plenary discussion on the draft Regional Strategy (focus on framework and key elements)
1230 - 1330	Lunch break
1330 - 1345	Introduction to working group session on the regional strategy
1345 - 1545	Working group session on the draft regional strategy (3-4 groups based on the structure of the document)
1545 - 1605	Coffee break

1605 – 1730	Presentation of working group discussion outputs Plenary discussion (follow each presentation)
1800	Reception dinner
28 November 2014	
0830 - 1000	Presentation on draft regional action plan supporting sustainable intensification of aquaculture in Asia-Pacific Plenary discussion on the draft regional action plan
1000-1010	Introduction to working group session on the regional action plan
1010 - 1030	Coffee Break
1030 - 1145	Working group session I on the regional action plan (3-4 groups based on the structure of the action plan)
1145 - 1230	Presentation of working group discussion outputs Plenary discussion (follow each presentation)
1230 - 1330	Lunch break
1330 - 1530	Working group session II on the regional action plan (3-4 groups based on the structure of the document)
1530 – 1600	Coffee break
1600-1700	Presentation of Working group session II outputs Plenary discussion (follow each presentation)
1700-1730	Discussion on how to promote concerted efforts and coordination. Closing Session