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COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

SUB-COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE

Sixth Session

Cape Town, South Africa, 26-30 March 2012

THE FAO FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE DEPARTMENT'S EFFORTS IN IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PAST SESSION/S OF THE COFI SUB-COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE

Executive Summary

This document contains a brief overview of the efforts made by the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, towards implementing the recommendations of the past sessions of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture.

The Sub-Committee is invited to:

reflect on the achievements and provide advice as required to improve the implementation of recommendations.

INTRODUCTION

1. The fifth Session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture was held in Phuket, Thailand, from 27 September to 1 October 2010, at the kind invitation of the Royal Thai Government. The report of the Fifth Session is provided as an information document, COFI:AQ/VI/2012/Inf. 5.

MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE

2. The Sub-Committee made a number of suggestions, comments and recommendations, and identified several priority areas for future work towards achieving the full potential of aquaculture for national, regional and global food security, poverty alleviation and human development. Details of such are provided in the Sub-Committee report COFI:AQ/ VI /2012/Inf.5.

3. The relevant activities undertaken towards implementing the recommendations emanating from the Committee's previous session are elicited below in the order in which they were presented in the Sub-Committee Report COFI:AQ/VI/2012/Inf. 5.

4. Due to various constraints, it was not possible to implement all the recommendations of the Sub-Committee. Nevertheless, owing to the significant efforts made by the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, considerable progress has been made on the implementation and is reported herein. We thank the member countries who provided extra-budgetary assistance for this exercise.

FAO FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE DEPARTMENT'S EFFORTS IN IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PAST SESSION OF THE COFI SUB-COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE

5. **The Sub-Committee reiterated the importance of lending continued support and priority to the African region. It also emphasised the need for support to the least aquaculturally developed countries, for example, the Pacific Island countries.** The Fisheries and Aquaculture Department has undertaken the following actions, many within the framework of Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) and other aquaculture-related meetings.

6. In the Africa region, a number of country projects are under implementation, including: (a) Validation and dissemination of integrated aquaculture systems in Mali through a farmer field school approach; (b) Technical supervision of the aquaculture component within the project: promotion and development of sustainable integrated aquaculture strategies in urban and periurban areas of Antananarivo; (c) Implementation of aquaculture strategy in Ghana; (d) Support for the development/elaboration of a strategy for sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture in the Republic of Congo; (e) Support for the elaboration of a development plan of aquaculture in Chad; (f) Support to the strengthening of capacity production inputs for the sustainable development of freshwater aquaculture in Senegal; (g) Support for the development of fish farming in Guinea-Bissau; and (h) Technical supervision of the aquaculture component within the project: promotion of sustainable small-scale aquaculture in Sierra Leone as a diversified income generating activity.

7. A project funded by Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) with the overall objective of contributing towards poverty alleviation, food security and economic growth through improved and sustainable management of the fishery and aquaculture sectors in Africa is currently being implemented by the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department in collaboration with NEPAD and the FAO Regional Office for Africa. The programme aims at enhancing multi-level governance, policy coherence and economic integration, improved responsible management through the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) and Aquaculture (EAA), and reduced vulnerability through disaster risk management (DRM) and climate change adaptation (CCA)

8. A three-year project entitled Aquaculture for Food Security, Poverty Alleviation and Nutrition (AFSPAN), funded under the Seventh Framework Programme for EU research (FP7) of the European Commission will be implemented in 2012 in 11 selected countries to include 3 countries from Africa (also 3 countries from Latin America and 5 countries from Asia). The project, which will be coordinated by FAO will strengthen the knowledge on the contribution of aquaculture to food security and poverty and will help to develop new methodologies to quantify such contributions.

9. In the Pacific region, a number of projects are being implemented. These include; (a) A Regional overview of aquaculture development in the Pacific – lesson learned, (b) An Aquaculture development project in Cook Islands, (c) Milkfish farming and environmental impact assessment in Nauru; (d) The Review of milkfish farming in Tarawa and Christmas Island, Kiribati; and (e) A Study on the milkfish industry in Palau. The Sub-regional Office for the Pacific (SAP) is also working on a number of project proposals, which are now at various stages of development.

10. As an outcome of an informal Pacific meeting organized in conjunction with the FAO co-organized Global Conference on Aquaculture 2010 held in Phuket, Thailand in September 2010, a regional scoping workshop for developing a Pacific aquaculture regional cooperative programme, was held in Fiji from 11-14 October 2011, in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community

and with the kind contribution of the Australia Centre for International Agriculture Research (ACIAR). The workshop built strong consensus and agreed on the importance of cooperation among Pacific island nations and made several recommendations. The report will be available during early 2012.

11. The 9th Meeting of the FAO South West Pacific Ministers for Agriculture, held in Tonga in April 2011, noted the potential for aquaculture development in the Pacific and agreed to strengthen national capacities for aquaculture development. The Meeting also agreed to establish regional and sub-regional aquaculture networks in support of the regional efforts in aquaculture development. As a first step, successful cases of aquaculture in the region will be analysed and documented for the benefit of members.

12. The Committee urged FAO to make further efforts to strengthen the Special Programme on Aquaculture Development in Africa (SPADA) and the regional aquaculture networks in Africa and the Americas. In this regard the following actions have been undertaken. Several activities were undertaken, both supporting SPADA and the Aquaculture Network for Africa (ANAF). A meeting of ANAF country-level focal points and stakeholders, among others, focused on information dissemination among ANAF and non-ANAF members, and the establishment of the legal status of ANAF in member countries.

13. For the period 2010-2011, the SPADA approach has been supported by several TCP projects and regular programme activities. They include 15 national projects (Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, Uganda and Zambia) and two regional projects. The Nigerian unilateral trust fund (UTF) project and the "One UN programme further assisted Nigeria and Tanzania/Zanzibar aquaculture activities respectively. The national programmes in Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali and Togo have been further supported by the Volta Basin tilapia breeding programme (TIVO). TIVO is breaking new ground and for the first time developing an improved strain of tilapia for African fish farmers. In addition, progress has been made in engaging potential donors to support additional SPADA activities.

14. Support to Aquaculture Network for Americas (RAA) resulted in finalising the network work programme for the 2010-2011 biennium, which gives high priority to small-scale aquaculture in the region. A training course on the promotion of good aquaculture practices: zoning and carrying capacity for aquaculture was organized and held in Fortaleza, Brazil from 7–11 November 2011. A Regional Workshop on "On-farm feeding and feed management in Latin America" is scheduled to be held during the first quarter of 2012.

15. **Urgent support has been requested from FAO and other donors to revitalise the aquaculture sector in Central Asia and the Caucasus region.** In this regard, the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department has undertaken the following activities.

16. FAO organised the inaugural meeting of the Central Asian and Caucasus Regional Fisheries Commission (CACFish), which was held in Istanbul, Turkey from 19-21 December 2011. The Commission endorsed: (a) better management practices for carp production in Central and Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia; (b) regional study on the feasibility of restocking and development of culture-based fisheries in Central Asia; and (c) technical guidelines for sturgeon hatchery practices and management for release.

17. An FAO scoping workshop on Regional Cooperation for Responsible Aquaculture and Fisheries Development in the Central Asian and Caucasian countries will be convened in early June 2012 in Xinjiang, China with a view to (a) developing a roadmap for revitalizing aquaculture in the region and (b) identifying development needs and foster regional cooperation among Central Asian and Caucasian countries, including the neighbouring countries such as China, Pakistan, Mongolia, Iran, etc.

18. The Central Asian Regional Programme for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (FishDev Central Asia) continued to function as a catalyst for regional level training and capacity building in Central Asia.

19. **The Committee requested the urgent finalization of the technical guidelines on aquaculture certification with a view to commencing implementation and providing assistance to capacity building (including financial support), where necessary.** The following action has been taken.

20. The 29th session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) approved the FAO Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification. The COFI recognized that in the absence of a precise international reference framework for the implementation of some specific minimum criteria contained in the Guidelines (environmental integrity and social aspects), it will be necessary to develop appropriate standards in order to ensure that the certification systems do not become unnecessary barriers to trade and remain consistent with the appropriate international standards. The Committee also noted the need for the provision of assistance for capacity development in developing countries and recommended that FAO develop an evaluation framework to assess the conformity of public and private certification schemes with the FAO aquaculture certification guidelines. Further details on the continuation and follow up process to the technical guidelines on aquaculture certification are given in the working document COFI:AQ/VI/2012/4.

21. **The Sub-Committee recognized that technical support and capacity building (e.g. guidelines, training, education and support services) in the areas of feed, genetics and conservation and the sustainable use of aquatic genetic resources, alien species, ecosystem approach to aquaculture, aquatic biosecurity be continuously provided to Members.** In this regard, the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department has undertaken the following.

22. On feed, the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) Technical Guidelines on the Use of Wild Fish as Feed in Aquaculture has been published. A regional training workshop on small-scale fish feed production was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan from 26-28 October 2011. Several field projects addressing the issue of feeds and feeding have been implemented. They include: (a) Reducing the dependence on the utilization of trash fish/low value fish as feed for aquaculture of marine finfish in the Asian region; (b) Advice to Central Asian Governments on the feasibility of commercial fish and livestock feed production; and (c) Identification and understanding of key technical, economic and social constraints to seed and feed production and management in Bangladesh. A project formulation mission on aquafeed production in Namibia to be implemented under the South-South Cooperation Technical Assistance Programme between Namibia and Viet Nam has been commissioned. Under the normative programme, several activities have been undertaken covering aquaculture feed production and management, on-farm feeding and feeding management, developing a user-friendly economic tool for alternative feeds and feed management in Sub-Saharan Africa, an internet-based information system on aquaculture feed and fertilizer resources. These activities have generated a number of technical publications.

23. On genetics and conservation and the sustainable use of aquatic genetic resources, collaboration with the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) has been extended in order to provide technical support towards the preparation of the State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources in 2017. Technical assistance was provided to the 13th session of the CGRFA in July 2011 by preparing appropriate documents, including a paper focusing on aquatic genetic resources and climate change. A special session on the role of aquatic genetic resources for responsible fisheries and aquaculture was held during the 9th Asian Fisheries and Aquaculture Forum in Shanghai in April 2011. Two projects addressing genetics and genetic resources are currently being implemented: (a) improving the national carp seed production system in Nepal and (b) aquaculture investments for poverty reduction in the Volta Basin: creating opportunities for low-income African fish farmers through improved management of tilapia genetic resources. The Volta Basin project aims at developing a breeding and evaluation programmes on native Nile tilapia and genetically improved Nile tilapia, developed in Asia, in Africa. The project will document native tilapia genetic resources

and assess risks and benefits of using improved breeds in order to determine which breeds are most appropriate for farming systems in the Volta Basin.

24. The CCRF Technical Guidelines on the ecosystem approach to aquaculture (EAA) has been published. Pilot implementations of these guidelines in Africa (Volta Basin countries), Latin America (Nicaragua and OSPESCA countries), and in Asia (Philippines) provided the opportunity to test the guidelines and their implementation on the ground. During this exercise, special attention was given to reducing conflicts with the fisheries and other sectors and to enhancing integration between fisheries and aquaculture and enhancing opportunities in aquaculture. Minimizing environmental impacts at the national level and in shared water bodies were also considered. A complete description of these case studies and the lessons learnt will be published in an implementation manual which will be published in the coming months. Further dissemination of the EAA application will be continued as financial resources become available.

25. The CCRF Technical Guidelines on the prudent and responsible use of veterinary medicine on aquaculture production has been published. In November 2010 a targeted training workshop was conducted on health aspects of aquatic biosecurity for a group of Iraqi fisheries personnel. In October 2011, an introductory training course on aquaculture, aquatic animal health management, aquatic food safety and public health was conducted for a group of veterinary and fisheries personnel from Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia.

26. **At its fourth Session, the Sub-Committee recommended that a strategic framework be created to allow FAO to better identify and evaluate completed and ongoing activities as well as to prioritise those that could not be completed due to resource constraints.** In this regard, the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department developed a working document for the current session of the Sub-Committee – COFI:AQ/VI/2012/8 – which proposes a strategic plan of action for the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture for discussion and decision.

IMPROVING THE PROGRESS REPORTING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR RESPONSIBLE FISHERIES (CCRF) PROVISIONS RELEVANT TO AQUACULTURE AND CULTURE-BASED FISHERIES AND THE PROPOSAL FOR A REVISED REPORTING MECHANISM ON CCRF WITH AN INTERACTIVE QUESTIONNAIRE FORMAT

27. **The Sub-Committee expressed the need to include space in the questionnaire for countries to provide details and clarifications beyond numerical scoring, which would allow the Secretariat to carry out an in-depth analysis. The Sub-Committee also suggested that the instruction manual, with guidelines for completion of the questionnaire, provide clear explanations on the ranking system.** In this regard, the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department undertook the following action:

28. Further improvements to the CCRF reporting system were made and a manual was developed to guide the completion of the new aquaculture questionnaire. Training activities were conducted in several countries and the most recent version, including all suggestions and recommendations generated during the training activities, is presented in COFI:AQ/VI/2012/3.

AQUATIC BIOSECURITY: A KEY FOR SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT

29. **The Sub-Committee recognized that the transboundary dimension of biosecurity requires regional cooperation and capacity building to deal with biosecurity emergencies and impacts on biodiversity were also identified as an important concern. Several Members requested assistance to develop regional and national biosecurity strategies and plans and reiterated the importance of continuing assistance to southern Africa towards addressing the issue of rapidly spreading EUS in the Zambezi basin and other water bodies. Members also requested technical support to develop a regional policy framework and an implementation**

strategy on aquatic biosecurity. The Fisheries and Aquaculture Department has undertaken the following actions within the framework of TCP and other extra-budgetary funded projects.

30. A number of completed, ongoing and pipeline projects reflect the continued support provided by FAO to member countries on various aspects of aquatic biosecurity. The completed and ongoing projects include: (a) TCP project entitled "support to regional training for capacity building in laboratory diagnosis and surveillance programme for infectious myonecrosis virus (IMNV) in ASEAN member countries"; (b) TCP/project on certification of small-scale aquaculture in Thailand; (c) TCP project on better management of freshwater aquaculture in Pingjiang County, Hunan Province; and (d) TCP project on improvement of aquaculture food quality and safety in Hubei Province. The pipeline projects include: (a) TCP Facility on formulation on infectious myonecrosis virus (IMNV) emergency and contingency plans for Indonesia; (b) inter-regional TCP project on strengthening biosecurity governance and capacities for dealing with a serious shrimp disease, IMNV involving 5 Asian countries and 4 Latin American countries; (c) pipeline TCP project on the assistance to Western Balkan countries for improving compliance with international standards on aquatic animal health; and (d) pipeline TCP project on strengthening national capabilities in fish disease surveillance in Suriname.

31. Few extra budgetary funded projects addressing various aspects of aquatic biosecurity will be implemented next year. They include: (a) the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) funded project on building trade capacity of small-scale shrimp and prawn farmers in Bangladesh; and (b) a component of the Global Environment Facility (GEF)-funded Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem (BOBLME) project on transboundary aquatic animal diseases focusing on transboundary impacts of aquatic animal movements and transfers and the introduction of transboundary aquatic animal diseases.

32. FAO provided technical assistance to a serious shrimp disease outbreak in Viet Nam through a Crisis Management Centre-Animal Health (CMC-AH) mission fielded in July 2011 that investigated a serious 'unknown' shrimp disease. The CMC-AH recommended further support to Viet Nam which led to the development of an emergency TCP to deal with an unknown shrimp disease that will be implemented in 2012.

33. FAO has also provided technical support and participated in several aquatic biosecurity and/or aquatic animal health-related technical and scientific meetings. Technical assistance was also provided to conduct two risk analyses: (a) the introduction of tilapia to the Solomon Islands (organized by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community) and (b) a proposal for the possible introduction of *Penaeus vannamei* in Sri Lanka. Several publications on aquatic animal health and biosecurity are forthcoming or in preparation.

34. Due to budgetary constraints, it was not possible to generate activities to provide continued support to Africa on the problem of EUS.

35. **Members requested FAO to develop technical guidelines on species introductions, to incorporate biosecurity in the preparation of the FAO CCRF Technical Guidelines on Recreational Fisheries, and the need for coherence in the work on aquatic biosecurity between FAO and other international standard-setting bodies under the WTO's SPS Agreement.** The following action has been undertaken by the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department.

36. The Technical Guidelines on the responsible use of introduced aquatic species are under preparation.

37. In the context of introductions of aquatic species, a workshop on Fish Introductions in Central Asia and the Caucasus was convened in Istanbul, Turkey from 3-4 November 2010 under the lead of the Sub-Regional Office for Central Asia (SEC) and in collaboration with the University of Hacettepe, Turkey, University of Hull, United Kingdom and the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department. The purpose of the workshop was to compile information on alien species in the sub-region, to update the FAO Database on Introductions of Aquatic Species (DIAS), to draft elements of a strategy for the responsible use and control of alien species in fisheries and aquaculture, and to develop technical publications on alien species.

38. FAO also convened an Expert Consultation on the FAO Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries: Recreational Fisheries in Berlin, Germany from 5-6 August 2011. The Technical Guidelines will complement the EIFAC Code of Practice for Recreational Fisheries, which was endorsed by the 25th session of EIFAC, held in Antalya, Turkey in May 2008.

39. FAO continues to collaborate with OIE on relevant aquatic animal health management issues worldwide.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND AQUACULTURE: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION

40. **The Sub-Committee expressed the need to expand the knowledge-base on climate change and its impacts, with emphasis on the global temperature rise, ocean acidification, use of predictive models, and alternative energy sources and a database for monitoring the impacts of climate change on aquaculture and for cataloguing projects dealing with climate change.** In this regard, the following actions were taken by the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department.

41. The Fisheries and Aquaculture Department has been active in addressing the climate change issues in aquaculture. Several case studies have been carried out in different countries/regions (e.g. Pacific SIDS, Viet Nam, countries in the Gulf of Fonseca, Central America, Jamaica, Lake Chad in Africa, Peru and Chile). Several national and regional workshops which discussed risks and adaptation opportunities to generate a geographically representative picture of potential threats both in fisheries and aquaculture have been conducted. The above-mentioned case studies will form part of a global review and will contain updated knowledge, analysis of impacts and adaptation options. Guidelines to address climate change adaptation in fisheries and aquaculture, including harmonized methods to analyse impacts and policy options are also underway.

42. A baseline study addressing climate change implications for aquatic genetic resources has been produced – an additional knowledge base for providing general policy recommendations for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

43. Activities are also being initiated to develop common methodologies to address GHG emissions and mitigation in fisheries and aquaculture as well as looking at opportunities in the sector for carbon credits and other environmental incentives to reduce emissions and enhance carbon sequestration.

44. FAO is also exerting efforts to assist countries in accessing climate change adaptation funds within the UNFCCC framework with initial work related to the development of project identification forms in Malawi, Bangladesh and Viet Nam.

MOVING AQUACULTURE FURTHER OFFSHORE: GOVERNANCE ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

45. **A number of requests were received from Members from developing countries for FAO and other partners to provide targeted assistance including capacity building, identification of suitable potential commodities and assessing the socio-economic impacts on communities as well as on the society as a whole when developing offshore aquaculture.** In this regard, the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department undertook the following actions.

46. The issue of definition was discussed during an expert workshop “FAO Offshore Mariculture Initiative” held in Orbetello, Italy in March 2010 and efforts are continuing to develop a harmonised definition. An FAO fisheries and aquaculture technical paper entitled “The potential for offshore mariculture from a global perspective” will be published in early 2012. No further work has been done in terms of documenting and assessing the positive and negative impacts of developing offshore aquaculture due to the unavailability of funds.

COORDINATING WORKING PARTY ON FISHERIES STATISTICS: AQUACULTURE

47. **Regarding the urgent need to strengthen aquaculture statistics in their respective countries and the request to FAO for technical assistance in capacity building in data collection,** the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture had undertaken the following actions:

48. The first meeting of Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics - Aquaculture subject Group (CWP-AS) was held on 2 October 2010 in Phuket, Thailand with the participation of four CWP participating organizations (FAO, NACA, SEAFDEC, and SPC) and an additional 9 experts nominated by FAO. The meeting agreed on the schedule to finalize the CWP Handbook for the aquaculture component, which will be done during 2012.

49. The reference species list has been updated by including additional species and hybrids of aquaculture importance to suit the needs for reporting by members on aquaculture statistics. Other references, such as the International Standard Statistical Classification of Aquatic Animals and Plants (ISSCAAP), in use since 2000, have been reviewed in order to update or modify for aquaculture statistics purposes. Proposals for modifications are to be discussed at the second meeting of the CWP-AS.

50. The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) developed regionally harmonized standards and methodology for aquaculture statistics collection and reporting.

51. A Consultation with the Aquaculture Network of Africa (ANAF) was held to hold a regional workshop to identify capacity building needs in the African Region, following the Strategy for Improving Information on Status and Trends of Aquaculture (Strategy-STA). Through this consultation ANAF indicated the urgent need to establish field manual of data collection for aquaculture component.

52. A new web site entitled National Aquaculture Sector Overview (NASO) maps collection (<http://www.fao.org/fishery/naso-maps/naso-home/en/>) was released in 2010 to assist member countries with the inventory and monitoring of aquaculture. The collection is in its early stages but it clearly provides potential for monitoring the status and trends of aquaculture development, addressing site selection and zoning issues and improving the operational management of aquaculture.

ANY OTHER MATTERS

53. **The Sub-Committee requested for an FAO inter-regional technical cooperation project to strengthen cooperation among aquaculture networks, development of technical guidelines for the use of alien species in aquaculture and the convening of an Expert Consultation that would include, *inter alia*, the issue of alien and invasive species that are nevertheless important for food security. In this regard,** the following actions were undertaken:

54. A Regional Expert Workshop for the Pacific region focusing on the responsible use of introduced aquatic species will be organized in 2012 in cooperation with the SPC. This workshop is closely linked to the preparation of Technical Guidelines on the responsible use of introduced aquatic species and will give Pacific Island member states the opportunity to review the draft Technical Guidelines and to provide their inputs related to the specific situation of small island countries.

55. **COFI-29 approved Sri Lanka's proposal to convene an Asia Regional Ministerial Meeting entitled "Aquaculture Development for Food Security and Economic Development", in partnership with FAO and the Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia Pacific (NACA), to discuss, decide and develop a mutually-beneficial regional partnership to ensure responsible, sustainable, viable and profitable development of Asian aquaculture.** Following action has been taken:

56. As approved by COFI-29, the regional ministerial meeting was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in July 2011. Seventeen Asian countries attended this high level meeting which was hosted by the Government of Sri Lanka and co-organized by FAO, NACA and the Government of Sri Lanka. The meeting concluded with an agreement on a strategy for regional cooperation in aquaculture

development in Asia, as outlined in the “Colombo Declaration: A Commitment to Regional Cooperation in Aquaculture Development for Food Security, Nutrition, and Economic Development in Asia”. The Declaration recognizes the outcomes of two global conferences on aquaculture held in Thailand in 2000 and 2010 respectively as providing guidance for regional aquaculture development. The meeting identified and prioritised few key technical areas for implementation through a phased approach, during the current decade, through enhanced regional cooperation. These include: farming systems, genetic improvement, aquatic animal health and responses to climate change impacts. The Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, within its ability, will support the implementation of the recommendations of the Global Conference on Aquaculture 2010 and the Colombo Declaration.