

Myanmar's Comments on Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification
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Myanmar has a relatively huge fishery production industry such as marine fishery, inland fishery and aquaculture. Fisheries is one of the major industries in foreign exchange earning sectors of Myanmar and it is significantly important for the socio-economic development of the country.

The Department of Fisheries is a competent authority for sustainable fisheries development of the country. As a competent authority, the Director-General issues relevant directives and regulations relating to aquaculture in comply with Aquaculture Law, 1989.

The Department of Fisheries of Myanmar appreciates FAO for playing the leading role in the development of Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification. We recognized the Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification to be used for developing Myanmar aquaculture standards and certification scheme.

The comprehensive guidelines will contributes easy market access, operation of aquaculture industries in harmony with environment; improve use of drugs, and chemicals in aquaculture, and production of safe aquaculture products.

Myanmar would like to comment for the implementation of guidelines in developing countries where there is less technical know-how, lack of infrastructure, and poor financials resources. Application of guidelines and compliance of relevant standards may increase cost of production that seems to be a constraint to small-scale farmers in Myanmar.

Myanmar small-scale fish farmers are producing low-valued and less beneficial species. Thus, they will interest in aquaculture certification when it delivers tangible benefits to farmers.

It is needed for developing member countries' accreditation bodies adequate financial resources and stability for the operation of accreditation systems. Member countries should employ a sufficient number of personnel having a necessary training, technical knowledge and experiences for performing accreditation function in aquaculture.

For the effective implementation of the purposes here, it is requested to seek donors to assist member countries, especially those in developing countries, to support financial and technical assistance, technology transfer, capacity building and training.