A regional capacity building workshop on developing aquaculture as a business within an ecosystem approach to the sector will be held under the NEPAD-FAO Fish Programme (NFFP) and FAO Sub Regional Office for Eastern Africa (SFE) which provide the major funding for the workshop.

There is increasing consensus that aquaculture in Africa needs to be treated as a commercial activity. In order to provide an enabling environment for the development of commercial aquaculture in Africa, policymakers and personnel in the public sector need to understand basic economic and business principles, appreciate the function of market mechanism and business operation, and acquire skills needed to design and implement policies and provide assistance and advice that align the environmental, social and governance objectives. (e.g. food security, poverty alleviation and business objectives of stakeholders in the private sector, etc.)

Being Africa also the home to some of largest aquatic biodiversity in the world, specially freshwater, and a region of great opportunities and needs, it is important to make sure that aquaculture grows in a way that will promote socioeconomic development, food security and that will not threaten conservation of natural resources for the immediate needs of the users of these ecosystems but also for the future generations.

An ecosystem approach to aquaculture (EAA)\(^1\) is a “strategy for the integration of the activity within the wider ecosystem such that it promotes sustainable development, equity and resilience of interlinked social-ecological systems”. The EAA provides a planning and management framework whereby parts of the aquaculture sector can be effectively integrated into local planning and affords clear mechanisms for engaging with producers and government for the effective sustainable management of aquaculture operations by taking into account the environmental the socioeconomic

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and governance objectives. Therefore the EAA can facilitate the adoption of the CCRF\(^2\) and of national policies and regulations at any geographical or administrative scale. For example, it can facilitate the development of aquaculture as a new business activity and or the implementation of management plans for its improvement within trans-boundary ecosystems (e.g. shared watersheds). The EAA also facilitates addressing the potential equity and access issues that can raise in developing aquaculture as a business.

### Rationale and objective

The workshop is intended to enhance the capacity of decision makers and personnel in the public sector (e.g. policymakers, extension personnel, staff in civil society organizations, etc.) in understanding and promoting **aquaculture as a business within an EAA** in order to facilitate the transformation of aquaculture in Africa from a public-funding driven, subsistence-oriented and non-viable sector to an economically vibrant, private-sector led and sustainable enterprise.

### Participants

About 30 participants from different countries in Africa will attend the workshop. The participants include fisheries/aquaculture officers, extension personnel, and staff from civil society organizations (farmers associations, NGOs, etc.)

### Activities

#### PART I:

There will be an introduction to the workshop content, process and expected outcomes and outputs.

#### PART II:

**Presentations by participants**

During the first day the workshop participants will give presentations (one for each country) to share experiences about promoting aquaculture as a business in the context of other development objectives (e.g. environment protection, food and nutrition security, poverty alleviation, etc.).

The presentations may address, *inter alia*, the following issues or topics:

- A brief summary of the country’s policies, strategies and plans in promoting aquaculture, including a) environmental/social requirements (e.g. EIA, licensing process) and b) indicating financial and non-financial support measures (e.g. access to funding and credit).
- Describe briefly the existence and role of small-medium enterprises (SMEs) and cooperatives in rural and aquaculture development and their potential contribution to the economy, society and people,

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\(^2\) Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, specially article 9 that refers to aquaculture development
• Describe the existence and roles of large enterprises in rural and aquaculture development and their contribution to the economy, society and people. Existence of effective rural extension services on a) production, b) environmental management and c) enhancing the financial and business skills of fish farmers and other key industrial players on the aquaculture value chain (e.g. traders)

There will be an invited presentation by the general manager/s of some of the largest global salmon farming companies whom will describe how the production started and how have they developed their business plans while addressing (or failed to) the environmental, social and governance objectives

PART III: Training on developing management plan under EAA

During days 2 and 3 the workshop will introduce the EAA planning framework and provide a hands on training on how to balance the socio-economic environmental and governance objectives and how to prepare development and management plans for aquaculture as a business in this context.

This will include brief overview of the steps for EAA implementation and practical exercises:

1) Initiation and Planning
   • Scoping (the aquaculture area/system to be managed) and baseline data needed
   • Set broad Objectives (for the development of aquaculture as a business )
2) Identify and prioritize issues/potential issues (environmental, socio-economic, governance)
   • Use of component trees (issues/assets)
   • Prioritization of issues (management needs) by risk assessment
3) Develop Management System
   • Set Operational Objectives
   • Select Indicators
   • Evaluation/Selection of management options
4) Implement and Monitor
   • Finalizing management plan
   • Formalize management plan
   • Review performance
   • Report and communicate

PART IV: Training on developing/promoting aquaculture as a business

During days 4 to 5 the workshop will move into a deeper analysis on developing or promoting aquaculture as a business. With the aid of a user-friendly investment tool, the workshop would train the participants in conducting technical and financial analysis for evidence-based decision making on policy issues or sector management.

Potential topics for discussion, inter alia, include:
• What species should government promote? How to select appropriate aquaculture species?
• Should we encourage farmers to farm smaller fish? How to determine optimal harvest size?

3 The socio-economic issues identified would be addressed in detail in Part II.
NEPAD-FAO Fish Programme Workshop on Developing Aquaculture as a Business within an Ecosystem Approach to the Sector
Lusaka, 20-24 January 2014

- The economics of feed and feeding practices.
- The economics of seed management.
- The economics of environmental management
- The economic dimension of policymaking

### Time and venue

Lusaka - Zambia, January 20 to 24, 2014. Venue to be announced.

### Follow-up actions

- The participants are encouraged to suggest salient policy and management issues or topics for discussion in the workshop.
- The participants should submit their presentations in electronic form at least one week prior to the workshop.
- A detailed workshop agenda will be prepared and distributed to the participants prior to the workshop.

### Contact information

Communication related to this workshop should be addressed to the following resource persons:

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