



University of Malawi



A NEPAD PROGRAMME



Afri-FishNet
A NEPAD Fish Initiative for Africa



(RFN)
NEPAD REGIONAL FISH NODE-SANBio



AU/NEPAD

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PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICAN FISHERIES-PAF-AQUACULTURE WORKING GROUP (AWG) AND AFRI-FISHNET NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 1

Newsletter Date; 13 JUNE, 2011

NEPAD INTRODUCING AQUACULTURE WORKING GROUP

Aquaculture Working Group (AWG) is a region-wide body established within the Partnership for African Fisheries (PAF) in April 2010 to address challenges holding back aquaculture and fisheries research and development in Africa, and provide strategic approaches to effective policy development and investment options for more positive performance.

It will align specifically to the New Partnership for African's Development (NEPAD) 'Fish for All' Abuja framework for aquaculture development.

With an initial operating period of 12 months, it will provide an important opportunity for underpinning the sound development of aquaculture, identifying and sharing best approaches, and working with national governments and sectoral stakeholders alike. It sets out to provide an effective resource

for impartial perspectives and policy development for the sector and to create a framework for development action meeting the broad aims of the African Union/NEPAD and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programm (CAADP).

It will work in conjunction with related proposals for research and capacity building (dealt with under the framework of Afri-FishNet), and governance, with the aim of creating a strategic resource in building national sectors and regional output, delivering benefits effectively to both producers and consumers.

The aim of AWG is to develop Aquaculture strategically by developing and making available rational scenarios for aquaculture in Africa, based on realistic information on technologies, returns and market potential, and set out the means by which they may be implemented

AWG established to promote rational diversified and socially inclusive aquaculture growth

Both AWG and Afri-FishNet are hosted by NEPAD-Regional Fish-node, Aquaculture and Fisheries Department, Bunda College, University of Malawi

WHAT IS AFRI-FISHNET

African Fisheries Expert Network (Afri-Fishnet) is the network of fisheries experts in Africa. The network cuts across all disciplines including Aquaculture and Fisheries, both inland and Marine sectors.

The Network positions itself as a core resource for NEPAD and therefore provides linkages to other Networks that relate to Fisheries and Aquaculture sectors.

The network adds value to existing networks by identifying gaps and mobilizing capacity to fill these gaps. Further, the network is considered as a broker between science and policy thus providing evidence-based policy recommendations to policy makers. In other words, it is a continental think-tank which seizes a NEPAD/CAADP platform to influence policy reform in various countries. In this context the

network's activities are, but not limited to, providing evidence-based case studies for policy reform. It is also a resource for evidence-based programming in Fisheries and Aquaculture.

Backed by the constitution, the Network constitutes an expert pool drawn from Universities, tertiary institutions, industry and other allied institutions which allows for capacity building and mentoring

among African fisheries and aquaculture practitioners.



Participants of the First Afri-FISHNET meeting held in Malawi

Afri-Fishnet and ANAFE collaboratively conducts an online study, on tertiary fisheries training and experiential learning

Time has come when networking is not only important but a MUST if our Aquaculture and Fisheries sector is to develop at a pace to meet the challenges of the day. Afri-FishNet, in collaboration with The African Network for Agriculture, Agroforestry and Natural Resources Education (ANAFE), is conducting an online survey which is aimed at identifying capacity gaps in fisheries tertiary training at institutional as well as individual level and in particular, in the context of experiential learning.

In this study, web-based data collection tool which was directly linked to dynamic database in PHP, JAVASCRIPT with MySQL as a backend (database) were developed to capture information on African Institutions (institutional) and experts (individuals) in various African regions, and Universities. The data collection tools can be viewed on www.nepadsanbiofishnode.org/survey.

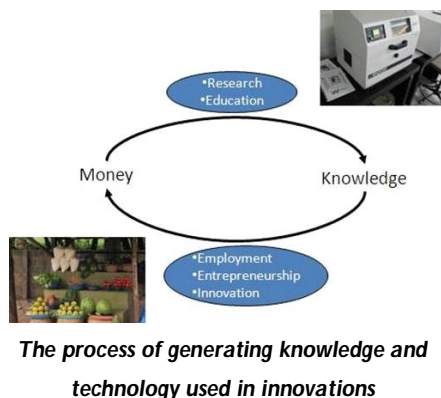
The web based link was sent to various colleagues through their various emails. The link was also posted on social networking groups such as facebook, buncoalumni@yahoo.co.uk, as well as on Sustainable Aquaculture Research Network for Sub Saharan Africa (SARNISSA) website. In addition, key informants were requested to provide information on the number of tertiary institutions for

the West and Central African region. The results showed that only 28 per cent had been exposed to experiential learning and only 17 % explained their experiential learning experiences. Experiential learning can transform the agricultural sector as learnt from the case studies in Malawi, Southern Africa

In terms of training programs, almost all countries in Central and West Africa do offer undergraduate courses in Aquaculture and Fisheries. However all the institutions studied seem to have inadequate number of laboratories, which may affect the quality of education. As fewer individuals have been exposed to experiential learning, the position of tertiary institutions in the development arena is weakened.

Given that this online survey only represents an initial scan of the present situation regarding experiential learning and infrastructural needs of the Universities in Africa, Afri-fishNet and ANAFE is embarking on a fledged study to assess the current teaching and learning approaches, conditions that support and impede experiential learning in West Africa as well as identify critical competence gaps of faculty members for implementing experiential learning.

Those interested to collaborate this work please contact John Kamanga at johnkamanga88@yahoo.co.uk.

**NEPAD Regional Fish-node hires new Program Assistants**

Edward Kabaghe
Program Assistant-
CARP-Fish project

To enhance the implementation of Community Action Research Project (CARP) which aims at Enhancing Fish Production and Marketing for Food Security and Rural Incomes of Small-scale Producers in Malawi, and AWG-PAF project, the Regional Fish-node Nepad/SANbio hired new Program Assistants. On 28 March 2011, the Node conducted interviews which were attended by a total of 14 candidates of which 2 were successful and entrusted with the jobs.

Edward Kabaghe was hired as a Program assistant for CARP project, while John Kamanga was hire as a program assistant for AWG. The later was also assigned to run Afri-fishnet project.



John Kamanga
Program Assistant-
Afri-Fishnet and
AWG –PAF Project

AWG conducts a 2nd Meeting in Malawi to Discuss the progress of AWG project

As a means of achieving its goals, AWG conducted its second meeting to discuss the progress on the (AWG) project. The meeting took place in Zomba District, Southern region Malawi from 11 to 12 August 2010.

The meeting was attended by representatives from Cameroon, Ghana, Malawi, United Kingdom, Nigeria, Uganda, Mozambique, South Africa, Benin, and Namibia.

At the meeting, members noted that there were some delays in commencing implementation of the project due to logistical issues which have since August 2010 been resolved. This led to late implementation of most AWG activities outside the time frame. Hence members requested for 'a no cost extension of the project' from Nepad which was later on granted on 29 March 2011.

Among other things, the meeting also agreed that Eddie Abban in consultation with members of the FISHNET to prepare a draft business plan of FISHNET. The Afri-Fishnet draft business plan was developed by AWG secretariat with backstop from international expert-Professor James Muir.

Currently, AWG is planning for its third meeting which will be conducted in the next quota to assess and review progress of its activities; which include its commissioned studies.



Group Photograph for AWG 2nd Meeting participants



1 and 4 –Bangladesh, Asia
2 and 3– Malawi, Africa

DWINDLING CATCHES FROM CAPTURE FISHERIES HAS TO BE BUFFERED BY AN INCREASE IN AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION-FOR FOOD SECURITY AND POVERTY REDUCTION-IT BEGINS WITH YOU AND ME TO MAKE A CHANGE



Workers collecting catches at MALDECO

AWG to Hire Consultants to Undertake a Needs Analysis Feasibility study of the Aquaculture Sector in Malawi

AWG May facilitate a Needs Analysis of the Aquaculture Sector in Malawi

In January 2011, Partnership for African Fisheries (PAF) organized a mission of the tripartite 'Africa, Britain, China, (ABC)' group to three countries in Africa. The purpose was to identify and assess areas that might be supported by the ABC Group.

During the mission, the team identified areas that would benefit greatly from external, donor funded support. This was particularly so in Malawi, where a national desire to radically increase aquaculture production is not being reflected in actual growth. This has been further confirmed both by the Government of Malawi and the leading private sector fish farmer, MALDECO. Both organizations have written to PAF seeking support.

Further to this, PAF has requested its Aquaculture Working Group to field a mission to further review and analyse the situation facing the aquaculture sector in Malawi and to propose areas where

support would radically improve aquaculture performance in Malawi.

There are two objectives to this mission: the first objective is to identify areas where investment in the enabling environment will promote rapid and sustained growth in the Malawian aquaculture sector. And the second one is to identify and quantify the cost of operational weaknesses in MALDECO's aquaculture operations.

Expected outputs include; a public sector investment strategy for growing the aquaculture sector in Malawi, and an analysis and action plan for growth and profitability for MALDECO.

It is expected that the study will be undertaken by three to

four consultants. The consultants will be supported by a two person team, nominated by the Government of Malawi, and a member of the MALDECO management team to accomplish its (consultant) tasks.

The main consultant team will also be supported by a locally recruited junior aquaculture specialist. His/her task will be to support the team and to collect field data.

The whole study will be facilitated and monitored by AWG, and it may commence immediately and be completed within three calendar weeks in the month of commencement, 2011.



NEPAD 'Fish for All' Abuja framework for aquaculture development.
IMPROVING FISH PRODUCTION IN AFRICA



ABC Delegates participating in a round Table Discussion with National Fisheries Stakeholders, Domasi (Zomba)



Cage Culture at MALDECO Aquaculture

Afri-Fishnet task force holds a meeting in Malawi-Salima

Afri-Fishnet task force which was set up during the launch of the Afri-FISHNET in February 2010 in Malawi, conducted a meeting from 21 to 22 February, 2011 at Sun Bird Livingstonia Beach Hotel which is in Salima-Malawi. This meeting was attended by representatives from Cameroon, Mozambique, Uganda, NEPAD South Africa, Egypt, Nigeria, Malawi, and United Kingdom.

The objective of the meeting was to; deliberate on a number of issues including the draft Business Plan; the course of action for the Network; on legal issues/ constitution of the Network, adopt the new name of the Network "Afri-Fishnet", and other topical issues of the AWG



Group Photo for Afri-fishnet task force members

The meeting was officially opened by the Director of Policy Alignment and Programme Development of NEPAD Agency, Professor Aggrey Ambali. Professor Emmanuel Kaunda presented progress on Afri-fishnet.

The members proposed and adopted the new name Afri-Fishnet standing for African Fisheries Expert Network (Afri

-Fishnet) since name Fishnet is an already registered private entity in Nairobi, Kenya and has been operating for close to three years.

Later on, Afri-fishnet legal advisor/ lawyer Mr. B. Ndau, made a presentation on the draft constitution, on which the Task Force members made various comments for incorporation into the constitution. Finally, Professor James Muir presented the Afri-Fishnet Business Plan and members deliberated on the identity of Afri-Fishnet as a continental Network with representation from the various regions of Africa.

NEPAD Regional Fish Node-SanBio Develops a Website

In order to use science and technology to build and strengthen a network of researchers involved in refining and implementation of projects to enhance fisheries, aquaculture production and biodiversity", the RFN-SanBio has developed its website. The Node started designing and developing the website in July 2010. Currently the website has been designed and developed and it can be accessed through www.nepadsanbiofishnode.org.

The website has more information on the RFN-SanBio mission and vision, objectives, current events, information about the projects that are being coordinated, fish database, its publications and many more.

www.nepadsanbiofishnode.org



More information about the fish database can also be accessed on the node website



**PAF-
AQUACULTURE
WORKING GROUP
& AFRI-FISHNET**

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**AWG TO
ENGAGE BOTH
LOCAL AND IN-
TERNATIONAL
CONSULTANTS
TO CONDUCT
STUDIES**



**PAF-AWG-Afri-
Fishnet**

UPCOMING EVENTS

AWG TO COMMISSION AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RELATED STUDIES

Aquaculture Working Group is planning to engage short term consultants in its studies to be commissioned from June 2011. The studies will serve to guide aquaculture development by practical approaches based on realistic perspectives on markets, technologies, and resource, social and financial impacts, thereby guiding better policy and permitting sound investment targeting all levels.

By the end of the studies, it is expected that; practical and realistic policy and support strategies will be defined and applied for artisanal, small commercial and large agribusiness aquaculture;

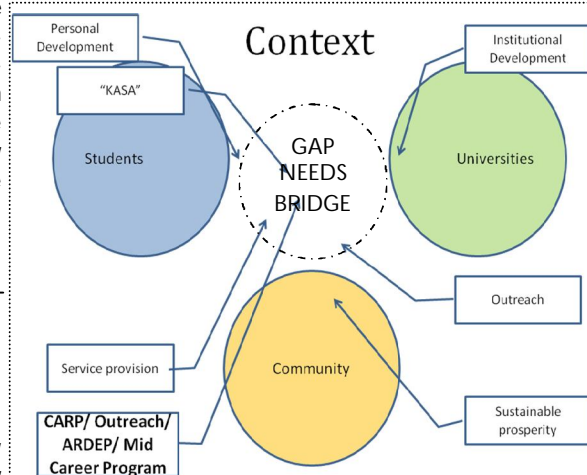
realistic costed and demand-linked sectoral development targets and approaches will be defined for participating countries and producer groups; focused themes on technical issues including markets, feed, seed, environmental capacity, climate change and system health will be established.

Currently, ToRs have been developed and contract documents have been drafted. What is remaining is to hire different contractors which will conduct the studies. AWG Secretariat will be responsible for commissioning and monitoring of the studies.

AWG AND AFRI-FISHNET TO BRIDGE THE INTERACTION GAP FOR FISH SECTOR GROWTH

University education and training institutions are isolated from the real world of communities and industries. They are fragmented and are considered to be silos within units. The curricula is outdated and disconnected with competitive economy (ivory towers). The

researchers and scientists are largely isolated from all actors in the economies. There are also problems of staffing (retiring staff); and teaching methods (modes) and facilities are inadequate



The above key issues can only be addressed if the Universities, the students and the communities and other industry stakeholders come together and interact particularly through action research or outreach.

In this case, Afri-Fishnet and AWG will come in and facilitate a regional/pan-African strategy for reform and development of fisheries, including aquaculture potential and research needs; specifically, paying attention to facilitation of cooperation, development

of knowledge, sharing of experiences, introduction of information systems and paving the way for policy reform to tackle sectoral underdevelopment. These will act as important intermediating process with respect to knowledge and skills transfer and interaction with national and regional stakeholders.

