



COMHAFAT/ATLAFCO

Rabat

**WORKSHOP**  
**" TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF AQUACULTURE**  
**IN THE ATLAFCO zone**  
**10-12 December 2018**  
**M'diq, Morocco**

The workshop organized by ATLAFCO in 2017 emphasized that the factors that hinder the full realization of the aquaculture potential of this part of the African continent include the lack or **insufficiency of skills and technical know-how**, policies **that do not exist or inappropriate, insufficient knowledge of business skills for business** enterprise development.

Participants at this workshop emphasized the need to support member countries in the development and implementation of aquaculture specific strategies.

Despite its coastline stretching from Morocco to Namibia, which is about 15 000 km long and whose oceanographic conditions are very favorable (upwelling zones, warm equatorial zone, etc.), the national reports presented at this workshop showed that almost all aquaculture production in this area of Africa is continental and carried out by small subsistence farms. From these reports it also emerges that important actions are initiated for the development of inland aquaculture. Thus, marine aquaculture cannot find its place in this development momentum.

Indeed, the efforts of regional and international organizations have focused instead on the development of inland aquaculture. Due to its capital-intensive nature, marine aquaculture has been marginalized.

The importance of marine aquaculture is well established to generate wealth and social benefits and contribute to the development of the national economy. Total fish production in Africa no longer meets the continent's food needs. Africa has an estimated population of 1.3 billion people. The continent's current supply of fish for consumption is estimated at about 10 kg per capita per year, while the global average has increased to about 20 kg per capita per year (FAO, 2016). The likelihood that Africa's capture fisheries production may be increased to meet this demand is low, as its commercially important fish stocks would be fully exploited or overexploited (FAO, 2016). As a result, Africa has become a net importer of fish.

Marine aquaculture now offers **the most sustainable** option for developing Africa's fish supply. To achieve this, marine aquaculture needs large capital and private investors. The philosophy of aquaculture development should not be limited to promoting small-scale production for households, but rather be based on the development of commercial production to supply larger markets

In this context, African leaders have recognized that an approach to sustainable aquaculture development that focuses on both the private sector and the need for the market is the most realistic option for meeting development expectations<sup>i</sup>.

This paradigm shift in the PFRS<sup>i</sup> also requires a transformation of the aquaculture value chain, where business viability, market access and the competitiveness of aquaculture products, goods and services become key performance indicators<sup>ii</sup>.

It is within this framework that ATLAFCO is contributing to the development of marine aquaculture, an important component of African aquaculture.

## **Presentation of the workshop**

The organization of this workshop is part of the action plan of ATLAFCO for the year 2018 and reflects its willingness to contribute to the development of marine aquaculture in Africa through the animation and coordination of efforts of member countries to contribute to the control of diversification and expansion of value chains while ensuring that business practices, knowledge and skills, policies, logistical support, market development, access to essential inputs and services are taken into consideration.

In perfect complementarity with the efforts undertaken at the African level by various regional bodies and in particular AU-IBAR, ATLAFCO organizes from 10 to 12 December 2018 in M'diq (Morocco), a workshop on the fundamental aspects to the development of marine aquaculture, namely a supportive environment, species and seeds, production systems, inputs, knowledge and skills, capital and investment opportunities and market requirements.

The workshop aims to sensitize and support the administrations in charge of the development of the aquaculture to analyze the strategies of developments of the marine aquaculture committed by the countries of ATLAFCO zone and to federate the efforts undertaken by these countries to develop an environmentally friendly marine aquaculture based on the market.

## **Conducting of the workshop**

- 1. First session:** Aquaculture and sustainable development in Africa
- 2. Second session:** State of play of marine aquaculture in COMHAFAT member countries and prospects for its development.
- 3. Third session:** Different marine aquaculture production systems
- 4. Fourth Session:** Strategic Directions for Sustainable Marine Aquaculture

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<sup>i</sup> Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa

<sup>ii</sup> 2Expert Advisory Workshop on Developing Guidelines for the Development of Aquaculture Business Models and Enhancement of Extension Services in Accra, Ghana, July 2017. The workshop was jointly organized by the Inter-African Bureau of Animal Resources of the African Union and the NEPAD Agency, in collaboration with the Government of Ghana and with the support of the European Union