Liberia's Aquaculture sector: Driving Inclusive growth & Livelihoods

National experience, Key Milestone, strategies Outlook for Sustainable Blue Economy Development

National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA)
Republic of Liberia

Presented by: Yarkpawolo K. Johnson
Associate Director for Aquaculture Extension & Inland Fisheries (NaFAA)

Strategic Context
Aquaculture Imperative in Liberia

Vital Animal Protein

Fish supplies over 15% of Animal Protein, acting as an indispensable dietary cornerstone across urban and rural Liberia

Abundant Natural Assets

Over 580 Km of coastline, rich river basins, and freshwater bodies offers ideal natural conditions for fish farming

Marine Pressure Shift

Aquaculture buffers marine - wild stock depletion closing the demand deficit and safeguarding national food sovereignty

Flagship Initiative

Strategic development partners

World Bank Funded

LSMFP Project

Liberia Sustainable Management of Fisheries Project

Dedicated Component 3, supporting fish farming infrast

USD$20 M Portfolio

LIFSSP Project

OPEC Fund Integrated Sector Project

Modernizing aquaculture value addition, cold chain development, and community-led small-scale fish productio

nservices

Technical Cooperation

FAO & Regional Technical Support

Farmer field schools, broodstock management

EU Funded Project

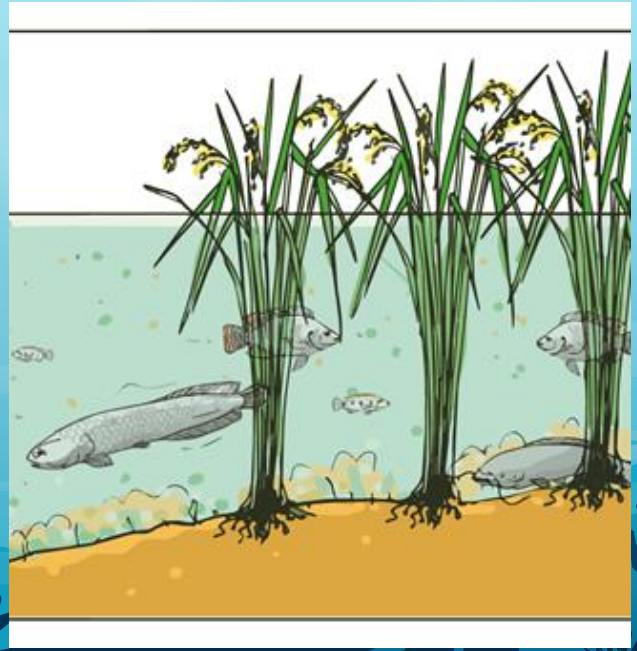
Private Sector Development Project (PSD)

Trained Extension Technicians, Researchers, Students on semi-intensive Aquaculture

ship initiatives.

Liberia Aquaculture Sector

- Liberia has a small and promising aquaculture sector
- There are about 1000 smallholder fish farmers scattered around the country, mainly consisting of smallholder farmers (NaFAA, 2021)
- Male constitute 73% of the farming population, while female account for 11% and 16% by institutions.
- Total aquaculture area is 115 hectares, comprising of earthen ponds, tanks and cages.
- The main farming practice is extensive, often integrating rice with fish
- Main cultured species are Nile tilapia, *Heterotis niloticus* and catfish
- Current production is estimated at 1000 tons (FishLib, 2021).



Farming Systems













Policy Alignment & National Governance

01

NaFAA Mandate & Licensing Regulation

Formalized Aquaculture Establishment Licenses, regulating commercial and smallholder operators under sustainable guidelines

02

CARI Research Integration

Partnership with Central Agriculture Research Institute (CARI) for genetic stock selection

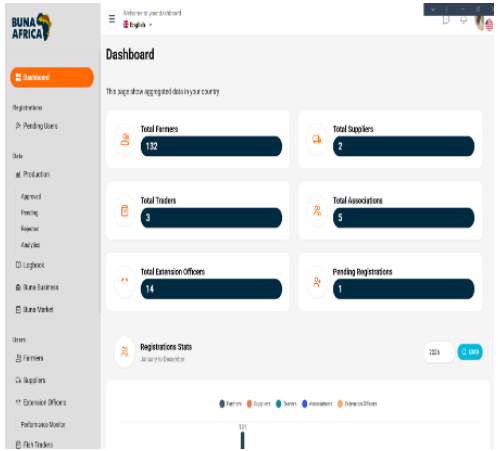
03

Kpongama National Investment Strategy

National Fisheries Investment initiative mobilizing private capital, regional cooperation and climate smart innovation

Key Programs, Projects and Activities

- Construction of the Klay Hatchery for the production of quality fingerling and fish feed production and training of farmers
- EU Funded Private Sector Development Project:
- Seeds4Liberia / cohort breeding: breeding program at Tassah Hatchery
- BUNA Platform and aquaculture database: strengthening sector mapping, information management and service delivery.
- Integrated Agriculture Aquaculture (IAA) Project implemented by Future Fish in collaboration with FAO and NaFAA









Social Transformation

Inclusive Growth & Jobs Creation Drivers

Women Empowerment

Women lead fish processing, smoking, and

Youth Entrepreneurship

Hands-on training in feed production te

Vulnerable Group Integration

Specialized training programs tailored f

Sector Challenges

Bottlenecks Requiring Actions

High Cost of Commercial Feed

Heavy reliance on imported floating feed

Infrastructure & Cold Chain

Limited cold-storage facilities in rural areas

Access to Tailored Credit

Limited concessionary credit lines and micro-fi

Future Prospect & Regional Roadmap

Scaling Liberia's Blue Economy

Local Feed Milling

Attracting private investments for domestic aqua-feed production utilizing local agricultural ingredients.

AfCFTA Integration

Expanding cross-border fish trade across West Africa under the African Continental Free Trade Area framework

COMHAFAT Collaboration

Strengthening regional technical exchange, disease control, and joint investment mechanisms.

Thank You / Merci Beaucoup

National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA) • Republic of Liberia