



Communiqué

8th Session of Aquaculture Network for Africa (ANAF) Meeting

'Identification of gaps and areas of intervention for enhancing role of women and youth in aquaculture enterprise development in Africa'



15-16 AUGUST 2019
GABORONE, BOTSWANA

I. INTRODUCTION

- 1 The Eighth Session of Aquaculture Network for Africa (ANAF) meeting was organized by the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR). The meeting was organized in collaboration with Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Government of Botswana.
- 2 The meeting was held from the 15th to 16th August 2019 at Cresta President Hotel in Gaborone, Botswana.
- 3 The major objective of the two-day meeting was to identify gaps and areas of intervention for enhancing role of women and youth in aquaculture enterprise development in Africa:
- 4 The specific objectives were to:
 - a. Review progress since its Seventh ANAF annual meeting and identify actions for follow-up.
 - b. Share experiences on the status of aquaculture development among African Union Member States and of interventions to strengthen women and youth participation in aquaculture development
 - c. Document specific gaps in existing plans and frameworks for enhancing role of women and youth in aquaculture
 - d. Establish existing plans and institutional frameworks for enhancing role of women and youth in aquaculture enterprise development in AU member states
 - e. Identify priority areas and develop 2-year action plans for promoting role of women and youth in aquaculture business / enterprise development

II. PARTICIPATION

- 5 The meeting was attended by representatives from the twelve (12) **African Union Member States** namely: Burkina Faso, Cameroun, Ghana, Nigeria, Malawi, Mozambique, Liberia, Senegal, South Africa, Tunisia, Uganda, and Zambia; Botswana was present as a hosting country; **Regional institutions:** Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation (LVFO), Southern Africa Development Community (SADC); **Development partner:** Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO); African Fisheries Policy Research network; **Independent Experts from**

private sector and Academic institutions. Also in attendance were staff members of **AU-IBAR.**

- 6 The selected rapporteurs for this meeting were Dr Divine Ngala Tombuh (Cameroun), Ms Hellen Moepi (South Africa), Mrs Joyce Ikwaput-Nyeko (Uganda), and Dr Venantious Mulenga Musonda (Zambia).

III.OPENING SESSION

- 7 Mr Shaft Nengu, Chief Scientific Officer – Aquaculture. Department of Animal Production Botswana, facilitated the opening session.

- 8 Remarks were received from the four institutions as follows:

- a. Statement by the Chair of Policy Research Network for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa, an initiative of the AU-IBAR, Dr Sloans Chimatiro
- b. Welcoming Remarks on behalf of Director AU-IBAR, Dr Mohamed Seisay, the Senior Fisheries Officer
- c. Opening remarks on behalf of Executive Secretary of the SADC Secretariat, Dr Motseki Hlatswayo, the Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisor
- d. Statement on behalf of Head of Aquaculture Branch of FAO, Mr Pierre Murekezi, a Consultant at the Aquaculture Branch
- e. Official opening by Government of Botswana, the Deputy Permanent Secretary (Technical Services), in the Ministry of Agricultural Development & Food Security, Dr. John Cassius Moreki

Dr, Sloans Chimatiro expressed delight and appreciation to AU-IBAR for the invitation to participate in this important meeting and highlighted the need to create linkages between ANAF and the African Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy Research network.

Dr. Mohamed Seisay, on behalf of the Director of AU-BAR, welcomed the participants and conveyed appreciation to the Executive Secretariat of the SADC Secretariat and the Government of Botswana for accepting to host the event. He reiterated the commitment of AU-IBAR to ensure the sustainability of this important network. He informed the meeting the selection of the theme for this 8th session was no coincidence since women and youth empowerment are well articulated in the African union flagship documents.

The representative of the Executive Secretary of the SADC Secretariat, Dr Motseki Hlatswayo, underscored the support of the SADC to African union in enhancing the

role of women and youth in aquaculture development. He gave an overview of aquaculture development of status in the SADC region and stressed the importance of effective participation of women in aquaculture value chain.

The representative of FAO, Mr Pierre Murekezi, conveyed the appreciation of FAO to AU-IBAR for the invitation to attend this meeting. The FAO representative restated the commitment of FAO to continue to provide technical support to ANAF and to collaborate with AU-IBAR for the full institutionalization of ANAF into AU-IBAR.

The opening speech was given on behalf of the Government of Botswana by the Deputy Permanent Secretary (Technical Services), in the Ministry of Agricultural Development & Food Security, Dr. John Cassius Moreki. He welcomed the participants to the Botswana and expressed gratitude to African union for selecting Botswana as the venue for this meeting. He commended AU-IBAR for choosing the empowerment of women and youth as the theme of the meeting giving their often marginalization in agricultural value chain. He noted the identification of priority actions to strengthen the participation of women and youth is an effective starting point for promoting their roles in aquaculture business development. The representative of the Botswana government briefed the meeting on advances of aquaculture in the Botswana. He officially declared the meeting opened.

Key points in opening speeches:

All remarks recognised and acknowledged the important role that women and youth play in the aquaculture sector and that the theme of the meeting was timely. It was noted that women are largely focussed on pond management, fish handling, processing and marketing. A strong emphasis was therefore placed on the need to ensuring that women also become starters or initiators of aquaculture business and get involved in the production phase. Participation of youth in the sector was highly encouraged particularly with regards to information, communication, technological advances as well as access to finance. Furthermore, it was mentioned that empowerment of women and youth in the aquaculture sector is prioritised as enshrined in the Agenda 2063, Malabo Goals, the African Union Policy Framework and Reform Strategy in Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa, as well as national and regional policies and strategies.

Lastly, a huge appreciation was given to the Government and People of Botswana for willing, supporting and hosting this important meeting.

IV. THE MEETING

The overall facilitation of the meeting was coordinated by Dr. Mohamed Seisay and Dr. Sloans Chimatiro

9 ***Background presentations facilitated by Dr Magatte Ba, Director General of the Agence Nationale de l'Aquaculture (ANA) in Senegal***

- a. Objectives of the 8th Session of ANAF by **Dr Mohamed Seisay**
- b. Overview of ANAF by **Mr Pwaspo Istifanus Emmanuel, the Deputy Director Aquaculture at the Federal Department of Fisheries Abuja, Nigeria** on behalf of the Kenyan Delegate, Ms Betty Nyandat

10 ***Technical Presentation – Informing the meeting facilitated by Dr Magatte Ba, Director General of the Agence Nationale de l'Aquaculture (ANA) in Senegal***

- a. Policy changes and options in enhancing integration of women and youth in aquaculture business development; what is needed by **Prof. Emmanuel Kaunda, Director - Aqua Fish Centre of Excellence**, Lilongwe University of Agriculture & Natural Resources
- b. Practical steps and potential avenues in strengthening capacity of women and youth in aquaculture enterprise development by **Mr. Etienne Henrichsen, African Aquaculture Development Specialist**
- c. Aquaculture Business Enterprise: A case study by **Dr. Gladys Namuswe, Fish farmer and Senior Lecturer Makerere University**

11 ***Presentations by ANAF-MS facilitated by Dr Rhoda Tumwebaze, Director for Fisheries Management of Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO)***

The presentations by member states were given in this order: Botswana, Malawi, Nigeria, Cameroun, Senegal, South Africa, Burkina Faso, Zambia, Tunisia, Ghana, Mozambique, Uganda and Liberia and focussed on the:

- (i) Current status of aquaculture
- (ii) Roles played by women and youth in aquaculture and
- (iii) Status Women and youth inclusion in aquaculture policies and actions.

12 **Group work sessions**

The plenary session after the group session was facilitated by Dr Venantious Mulenga Musonda, Acting Deputy Director-Aquaculture in Zambia

Two working groups were formed and terms of reference were to:

- a. Identify challenges and opportunities in enhancing participation of women and youth in aquaculture
- b. Propose strategies for ensuring that gender equality is mainstreamed into aquaculture policies, planning, development, monitoring and evaluation,
- c. Propose strategies for political actions by MS, advocacy by NGOs and NSA or CSOs, as well as a possibility for "Gender Champion in Aquaculture",
- d. Identifying priority areas for enhancing role of women and youth in aquaculture enterprise development
- e. Developing a two-year action plan to promote the role women and youth in aquaculture business, including strategies and new technical instruments for accelerating implementation of the 2-year Priority Action Plans

13 Alignment of ANAF with other networks facilitated by Dr Motseki Hlatswayo, Fisheries and aquaculture technical advisor at the SADC Secretariat

Dr. Sloans Chimatiro gave a presentation on Aligning Pan-African Fisheries Policy Research Network (AFPRN) and avenues for synergies with ANAF

In his presentation, Sloans reported that AFPRN was conceptualised through a review that was done by Dr. Benedict Satia (2015), and this led to the proposal for the establishment of a Policy Research Network for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa. The review reported that: (i) "evidence-based, timely and relevant information generated through high-quality research is limited (due to limited budgetary allocation; donor-driven projects; fragmented efforts); (ii) However, African Union Member States may not be able to achieve optimum science-based evidence fisheries and aquaculture management without a critical mass of scientists; and (iii) Hence it was important to build research partnerships that focus on generating information to help poor producers and consumers, especially women and children (who depend on fish for their food, nutrition and livelihood). He noted that AFPRN aims to support MS to generate evidence to inform the **Gender Strategies & Actions in the Policy Framework & Reform Strategy (PFRS)**. Therefore, Potential targets for Pan-African Policy Research Network in the 2 years Action Plan include (i) issues, including development of a policy brief on "women and youth in aquaculture"; (ii) Provide technical inputs the Committee for Inland

Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa – CIFAA, focusing on the important women and youth in aquaculture; (iii) Undertake gender analysis that informs REC, RFB and BC sub-regional policies; (iii) Contribute to the development of Aqua-business Models that includes gender-sensitive (gender transformative) approaches; (iv) Contribute to post-harvest and regional trade, targeting interventions for empowerment of women in accordance with needs identified in the FishTrade and FishGov Programs; (v) Support to CAADP compact development (including National Fisheries & Aquaculture Investment Plans); (vi) Development of process/methodology for how to ensure integration of gender in the CAADP fisheries and aquaculture process; and (vii) Develop Gender Indicators and monitoring plan and consolidate into the PFRS M&E frameworks.

14 Status of institutionalization of ANAF within the- Dr. Mohamed Seisay gave a presentation on the following:

- Review of progress on activities agreed at 7th ANAF meeting and Progress on the institutionalization of ANAF within AU-IBAR, Dr Mohamed Seisay.
- Presentation and review of proposed TORs for the ANAF by Secretariat at AU-IBAR.

15 Towards preparation for the upcoming meeting of the 2019 COFI subcommittee of Aquaculture:

Dr. Motseki Hlatswayo gave a Presentation on the agenda and steered discussion and agreement on mechanisms for coherent AU positions (African Voice) during the COFI-Aquaculture Sub-committee meeting in Norway.

16 Presentation on Regional Aquaculture programmes: LVFO and SADC

Presentation on regional aquaculture programmes – highlighting youth and women were given by Dr Rhoda Tumwebaze for LVFO with respect to the East African Region and Dr, Motseki Hlatswayo for the SADC region.

V. MEETING OUTCOMES

The meeting achieved the following main outcomes:

- i. Existing provisions and gaps of the role of women and youth in national aquaculture plans and institutional frameworks documented
- ii. Strategies for ensuring that gender equality is mainstreamed into aquaculture policies, planning, development, monitoring and evaluation,

- iii. 2-year priority action plans for enhancing role of women and youth in aquaculture enterprise developed
- iv. Strategies and new technical instruments for accelerating implementation of the 2-year Priority Action Plans
- v. Strategies for political actions by MS, advocacy by NGOs and NSA or CSOs, as well as a possibility for "Gender Champion in Aquaculture"s
- vi. Mechanisms for creating linkages between ANAF, private sector, regional institutions other existing networks explored

VI. KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

The meeting came up with the following set of recommendations:

Recommendations on ANAF

- a. There is a need for alignment of the Pan-African Policy Research Network with PFRS in order to deliver on evidence-based, gender-focused interventions and innovations in aquaculture that can enable MS to address inequalities and positively influence productions and equitable distributions of benefits, in order to reduce poverty and enhance food and nutrition security for women and children.
- b. Enhancing capacity of women and youth in aquaculture enterprise development.
- c. AU-IBAR, RECs and RFBs should identify Best Practices in Gender-focussed aquaculture projects and share the lessons with AU member states in order to accelerate adoption of innovations.
- d. AU-IBAR was urged to use examples as concrete case studies or models for other countries to follow and for gaining political will in the sector. These examples include but not limited to:
 - Aquaculture Development Fund in Zambia
 - Participation of women and active youth in aquaculture development in Nigeria
 - Allocation of 5% of the irrigable land to aquaculture in Ghana,
 - Involvement of women in commercial cage aquaculture in Uganda
 - Investment of women in marine aquaculture of oyster in Senegal
 - Professional women organisation in Uganda and Senegal.
- e. Development of process/methodology for how to ensure integration of gender in the CAADP fisheries and aquaculture process.
- f. Develop Gender Indicators and monitoring plan and consolidate into the PFRS M&E frameworks.
- g. AU-IBAR should support existing initiatives aimed at building entrepreneurship skills of youth and women at the regional level and sub-regional level such as

SADC Regional Course on Transformation of Aquaculture, Fish Processing and Value Addition in the SADC Region (AquaTrans).

- h. It was recognised that AU-IBAR has already put in plan the African Women Fish Processors and Traders Network (AWFishNET) and there is a need to integrate women aquaculture operators into this network.
- i. The meeting recommended that existing platforms/networks should integrate youth needs.
- j. The meeting acknowledged FAO's support to ANAF and urged FAO to continue supporting AU-IBAR during the transition period of ANAF's transfer to AU-IBAR.
- k. To create a webpage of ANAF on AU-IBAR website.

Recommendations on Policy Research Network for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa (PRNFAA)

- a. There is a need to utilise existing capacities within the network while more emphasis should be placed on building critical masses to provide evidence-based advice on policy.
- b. Create awareness of the network and encourage sharing of research outcomes from their studies. The PRNFAA could publish a newsletter to sensitise MS.
- c. The PRNFAA to undertake data mobilisation and sharing functions of ANAF.
- d. Policy research important to show the contribution of aquaculture and fisheries to economies for prioritisation by national governments.
- e. PRNFAA make available findings of research to policy makers.
- f. Consider building on existing activities being undertaken at the regional level and sub-regional level.
- g. There is a need to encourage professional organisations to be affiliated members of PRNFAA.

Recommendations on ANAF Secretariat

- a. It was recommended that AU-IBAR in collaboration with FAO and ANAF Task Team to finalise the institutionalisation of ANAF within the AUC structures.
- b. There is a need to encourage professional organisations to be affiliated members of ANAF.
- c. ANAF to enhance linkages with the private sectors at country level.
- d. ANAF Secretariat was urged to ensure expeditious implementation of the 2-Year Action Plan.

Recommendation for 2019 COFI Subcommittee on Aquaculture Agenda

- a. The meeting recommended that AU Member States should convene every morning during the COFI Subcommittee meeting in Norway and develop common African position for discussion in the plenary.
- b. The AU MS were encouraged to be present during voting and adoption of position at the COFI Subcommittee in Norway.
- c. The meeting recommendation that Uganda, Senegal and Zambia submit their interest to host the 2021 COFI Subcommittee on Aquaculture.

VII. WAY FORWARD

- a. AU-IBAR in partnership with ANAF Member States prepare and provide an update during the August 2019 COFI Sub-committee of Aquaculture in Norway.
- b. AU-IBAR to synthesis priorities and action plans from the 8th ANAF session.
- c. AU-IBAR to share ANAF flyer with AU MS and other stakeholders for sensitisation and awareness creation

VIII. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

On behalf of SADC Secretariat and SADC region, Dr Motseki Hlatswayo thanked AU-IBAR for considering the region to hosting this important meeting. He encouraged the meeting to work hard and alleviate poverty in our countries through fisheries and aquaculture.

Mr Pierre Murekezi on behalf of FAO was privileged to see how ANAF is evolving since its inception. He thanked LVFO for hosting the ANAF website. He emphasised that FAO position will always be to sustain the support of the network and provide technical backstopping to ANAF and MS.

Dr Mohamed Seisay on behalf Director AU-IBAR appreciated support and professional contribution throughout the meeting. He confidently mentioned that the objectives of the meeting were achieved. He thanked FAO for support to ANAF and its institutionalisation within IBAR. He assured the meeting that IBAR will continue to ensure that ANAF bears fruit. AU-IBAR will continue to strengthen the linkages between ANAF and Policy Research Network and any other networks on the continent.

On behalf of People and Government of Botswana, Mr Shaft Nengu thanked AU-IBAR and SADC Secretariat for considering Botswana to host this important meeting. He stressed the point that Women and youth are "wearing the shoes" and they could have been more represented. He suggested that AU-IBAR conduct a small stakeholder workshop to have

inputs from women and youth in order to enrich the document. In closing, Mr Nengu recommended that the outcome of this meeting should be put in action and operationalised. He declared the meeting closed.

Dr Magatte Ba gave a vote of thanks on behalf of participants. He thanked people and government of Botswana for hosting us in their beautiful country. He thanked AU-IBAR for taking into consideration the calendar of COFI Subcommittee Aquaculture to organize this meeting, to strengthen functions of ANAF in a coordinated manner and its visibility in a global agenda. Dr Ba assured the member states' commitment and belonging to the network for the development of aquaculture in Africa. He recognised the efforts of SADC and ANAF Focal Points in this meeting. Lastly he thanked FAO for its renewed commitment. It's good to copy what other countries are doing and new image that will enhance the development of Africa.