



The Second Regional Eastern African Aquaculture Hybrid Conference and Trade Fair

Aquaculture: Africa's Turn

21st to 25th September, 2022, KENYA

Venue – Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology (JOOUST), Bondo, Kenya.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

Aquaculture in Eastern Africa started on a small scale in the 1950's. It was initially promoted as source of fish to improve the nutritional status of rural households distant from water-bodies. The majority of aquaculture producers in the region remain smallholder fish farmers. While this may be the case, it is these farmers who led the foundation and contributed towards the transformation of Eastern Africa's aquaculture into a commercial sector with an expanding value chain. Their investment, innovations and resilience over the years generated the evidence and experience needed to warrant and guide the transformation of the sub-sector from one centred on addressing household nutritional, into a rapidly growing commercial agricultural value chain that now contributes to national food and nutrition security, wealth creation, employment and socio-economic development.

Eastern Africa's aquaculture value chain is diverse. It constitutes several small to medium enterprises engaged in production, processing, supply of inputs and services, marketing and trade. It has also evolved into a multi-disciplinary field with a wide array of stakeholders that include women and youth. This transformation, has paved way for investments into large scale commercial aquaculture. The new technologies adopted and markets that have since emerged have contributed to Eastern Africa becoming Africa's third largest regional aquaculture producer. In 2018, the region produced over 256,000 tons from aquaculture valued at about 390 million USD compared to 44,000 tons in 1998 (FAO, 2018).

While the region may be advancing in terms of aquaculture development, its aquatic living resources are increasingly under threat from environmental degradation and climate change. Deforestation and watershed degradation, pollution, microplastics, and climate change are affecting the hydrology, water quality and biodiversity within prime aquaculture production environments. If left unchecked, the region may not achieve its sustainable aquaculture growth, fish food and nutrition security and Blue Economy development goals.

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The Eastern Africa Regional Aquaculture Conferences and Trade Fairs offer platform for exchange information, building partnerships and networking among the regions public and private sector stakeholders to foster equitable sustainable commercial aquaculture development. In light of the above, this year's conference under the theme **"Aquaculture: Africa's Turn'** aims to:

- i. Highlight the positive role smallholder aquaculture producers and enterprises have played in transforming the regions' aquaculture sector.
- ii. Identify options for safeguarding the region's aquatic ecosystems against negative impacts environmental degradation and climate change to foster the gains the industry has achieved and promote sustainable commercial aquaculture development.

Eastern Africa joins the rest of the world in celebrating the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022. **Small in Scale, Big in Value.**





The Conference

A] Objectives of the Conference

The conference objectives are to:

1. Consolidate and share best practices and the experiences of East Africa's emerging aquaculture industry by emphasising the roles and contributions of different actors across the value-chain, elaborating alternatives for ecosystem management and demonstrating sustainable commercial aquaculture techniques.
2. Establish regional linkages among the sector stakeholders.
3. Show-case the initiatives and successes of East Africa's aquaculture entrepreneurship and research and development programs.

B] The Programme

The conference will run over three days in parallel sessions, and each day will have a theme(s) based on the key messages of the IYAFA

Day 1 - Session 1: Opening

Day 1 – The Benefits from Aquaculture Development in Eastern Africa

Day 1 – Session 2: Aquaculture Policy frameworks and strategies

This session will focus on existing policies that support industry and initiatives to leverage the engagement of women and youth in the sector, leaving no one behind. The opportunities, gaps and challenges will also be discussed. It will highlight:

- Government programs to support upscaling smallholder (also medium and large) aquaculture enterprises across different aspects of the value-chain
- Extent to which government policies have integrated climate change mitigation and environmental resources to safeguard aquatic living resources for sustainable aquaculture development and growth.
- Access to resources and facilities that promote sustainable commercial aquaculture such existing permitting guidelines and regional trade protocols.

Day 1 – Session 3: Impact of Aquaculture on the community

This session will show case the societal benefits accruing to the promotion of sustainable commercial aquaculture development in Eastern Africa, notably:





- Working conditions for aquaculture workers and producers
- Nutritional and other socio-economic benefits to society that have accrued from aquaculture
- Success stories from entrepreneurs illustrating impacts on families and greater community
- Case studies showcasing contribution of farmed fish to local supply i.e. local/urban markets, employment, off-setting import bills, forex earnings, etc.

Day 1 – Session 4: Women and Youth in Aquaculture

This session will showcase the role and contributions of women and youth in Eastern Africa's aquaculture value chain:

- Women and youth activities/businesses, associations and networks in aquaculture
- Topical issues pertaining to women and youth; and the changes that need be made to empower them invest in aquaculture and auxiliary aquaculture businesses.
- Students' activities, clubs and presentation of student thesis
- Vocational and tertiary training programs (technical and skills development, etc).
- Webinar on writing skills and making scientific presentations (pre-conference activity for students).

Day 2: Aquaculture Technology and Enterprise

Day 2 – Session 5: The opportunities and prospects in Eastern Africa's aquaculture value chain

- Presentations on businesses opportunities and challenges across the entire value chain (i.e. farmers, species, culture systems; processors; transporters including distributors, feeds, farmed fish outlets, etc. small and large scale.
- Unharnessed development opportunities – e.g. financial institutions, Public private Partnerships etc.
- Enterprise budgets, proposal writing

Day 2 – Session 6: Aquaculture as a food production system

- Focus on production and production systems
- Feed manufacture
- Fingerling production
- Processing & packaging technologies available that SME's could adopt etc.





- Collective marketing and distribution networks/systems
- Technology
- Ethical issues

Day 3: Safeguarding Eastern Africa's Aquatic Ecosystems for Sustainable Commercial Aquaculture Development

Sustainable environmental management, early warning and risk mitigation (environmental, biodiversity, biosecurity)

Day 3 – Genetics in aquaculture

- Presentations demonstrating the steps and issues affecting the status and supply of living and non-living aquatic goods and services for aquaculture
- E.g. negative impacts and consequences of environmental degradation on watersheds/supply on fish farming, quality of farmed fish products, occupational hazards, fish health
- Biodiversity degradation vis-à-vis stock quality, services derived from aquatic biodiversity for sustainable aquaculture, genetics

Day 3 – Aquatic animal health, welfare and food-safety

- Health management
- Aquatic animal health diagnostics and inputs, etc.
- Antimicrobial resistance
- Zoonoses
- Zoosanitary certification aquaculture inputs, produce and products for regional trade

Day 3 – Interventions to safeguard aquatic biodiversity and ecosystem health

- Zonation
- Disease control and risk mitigation
- Genetics management (profiling)
- Public awareness
- Environmental impact assessments and audits – procedures
- Certification systems
- Early warning systems
- Climate change



Farmers Sessions

This session will focus on sharing experiences and strengthening the ability of fish farmers and other industry actors to adopt Best Practices. Topics of interest are similar the technical session, but the focus will be on sharing practical information and experiences. Emerging commercial producers and related aquaculture enterprises will share their experiences.

Farmers program in which the main objective will be to

- transfer practical knowledge and skills,
- addressing production and marketing field challenges producers face
- extension (dissemination) of Best Practices
- format – interactive webinars and video clips, field demonstrations
- Topical areas of interest include:
 - AU-IBAR community of practice for networking;
 - how to develop an enterprise budget;
 - Marketing plan and strategy for collectives
 - Choice of pond, tank or cage management
 - What is biosecurity – farm level. How to do it generally for ponds, tanks and cages.

Trade Fair

- Different aquaculture businesses endeavouring to represent entire spectrum of national and regional value chain
- Fish tasting and cooking demonstrations
- Research centres and universities, associations, etc.
- Knowledge items/publications etc from development partners
- Online business directory (for both physical and online exhibitors)
- Shall need lives streaming on social media since it is a hybrid event

D] Expected participants.

- a. Farmers
- b. Industry actors
- c. Research and academia
- d. Policy makers.
- e. Development partners



E] Expected Outcomes for the symposium and trade fair

- a. Show case the status of Eastern Africa's aquaculture industry and the contribution's made by its stakeholders.
- b. Contribute to celebrating the United Nations International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022.
- c. Establishment of networks and linkages among the sectors stakeholders.
- d. Establish new market opportunities for East Africa's aquaculture products, goods and services.
- e. Document experiences shared and lessons learnt at the event for dissemination to stakeholders in the industry.

