



Tropentag, September 9-11, 2020, virtual conference

“Food and nutrition security and its resilience  
to global crises”

## Addressing Critical Issues to Draft National and Regional Policies Framework for Aquaculture in Africa

MOHAMED E. MEGAHED

*National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries (NIOF), Gulfs of Suez & Aqaba's Branch, Egypt*

### Abstract

Aquaculture was introduced to many African countries five decades ago as an innovation that would improve the socio-economic, nutritional and livelihood of rural poor farmers. In spite of having optimal resources for aquaculture sector, Africa has a shortage in fish supply to feed the growing populations. This weakness of aquaculture production is mainly due to several constraints. The main constraints facing the sustainable development of aquaculture in Africa are the lack of skilled workers, lack of supply chain in terms of feeds, feed ingredients and additives. From my work experience in the field with primary stakeholders at WorldFish Centre, I have been delivering and designing training courses to African trainee from different countries in Africa and the world and disseminated genetically improved tilapia strains to local tilapia farmers. The training was aiming to increase the capacity building of African farmers and employee in the field of aquaculture. Through working as a consultant with Arab Organisation for Agriculture Development (AOAD), to disseminate the knowledge and experience to Sudan for selecting suitable shrimp farming sites on Red Sea Coast. I have touched the constraints facing fish farming in Africa and other similar areas in the world. From my work experience as a consultant to establish and run fish farms in Blantyre, Malawi called (Chambo fisheries). I have been audited the farm and identified the main constraints. One of the main constraints is supply chain and capacity building. In Chambo fisheries, I adapted Biofloc technology as alternative to fish feeds, as fish feeds represented a hug problem for development aquaculture production in Malawi as Fish eating nation. Also, Malawian women have been employed to work in the fish farm (Chambo fisheries) to learn fish farming and secure job and income for family. This work support achievement of sustainable development goals (SDGs). For several countries consulted, visited and delivered my training. Most countries are focusing on small-scale integrated systems producing tilapia and/or catfish (*Clarias* or *Heterobran-chus*). Thus, public/private sector should encourage aquaculture development. Also, the farmer to farmer extension approach should be developed; and selected species should be able to be reproduced by farmers.

**Keywords:** Africa, aquaculture, framework, national, policy, poverty, regional, SDGs, strategy