



THE TILAPIA & CATFISH FESTIVAL - A SUCCESS



The Tilapia and Catfish Festival came off at the Food Research Institute at Shishie in Accra on Thursday 25th and Friday 26th July. It was, to say the least, quite a memorable event.

The Stakeholders Session was the first activity. It started with a welcome address by Prof Charles Torto, Director of the Food Research Institute, followed by a speech from the Minister for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, Mrs. Mavis Hawa Koomson, which was read on her behalf by Ms. Rosemary Abbey, Director of Finance and Administration at the Ministry. Her address was followed by the Keynote Presentation by Prof. Enoch Anokye Frimpong, Professor in Fish Ecology at Virginia Technical University in the US and Director of Cart4D Consulting Gh, on the topic 'The State of Fish Farming in Ghana Revisited After the Last FAO Review'.

Prof Frimpong's presentation was followed by presentations from Dr Amy Atterh of the FRI, Dr. Francis Anani of the CSIR Aquaculture Research and Development Centre, Mr. Hanson Dzamefe, Bono Regional Director of the Fisheries Commission, and Mr. Seyram Amanie-Adjei, Trainer at Agritop Ltd. All presentations were very actively discussed, and the Executive of

the Association have expressed great satisfaction with them. Interactions with key agencies have already begun towards putting into practice some of the suggestions made at the Session.

Vendors at the Festival expressed satisfaction with the turnout. Abigail Dsane, who presented grilled tilapia with banku and fried yam said 'there were no big crowds, yet all the food we presented were sold. I enjoyed the atmosphere, especially the DJ, and our interactions with other vendors. We will certainly be here next year. Mrs. Abigail Ferguson of Nsunam Products, said 'it has been a satisfying and profitable experience. I suggest that the organisers put more effort into making it bigger next year'.

Quite a number of feed companies, including Raanan, Coppens and Deheuss, actively engaged with visitors to their stands.

Officials of the Fisheries Commission, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Ghana Standards Authority and the Fisheries Resources Commission were on hand to share information with farmers on issues relating to the regulatory aspects of aquaculture.

Images from that unforgettable event on page 2

IMAGES FROM THE TILAPIA AND CATFISH FESTIVAL



THE STAKEHOLDERS' SESSION

Critical Issues Were Discussed



The Stakeholders' Session, a major component of the Tilapia and Catfish Festival, came off at the Conference Room of the Food Research Institute. Prof. Daniel Torto, Director of the Food Research Institute, welcomed participants to the programme, and called on all stakeholders in the aquaculture industry to join the Institute to help ensure that the aquaculture sector played its crucial role of providing essential protein for the nation. He emphasized the importance of value addition in extending the shelf life and increasing patronage of farmed products, and pledged the Institute's willingness to support all industry players in furthering that cause.

The Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, Ms. Mavis Hawa Koomson, who was represented by Ms. Rosemary Abbey, said that 'aquaculture presents a viable alternative with significant potential to increase fish production to meet national fish demand, create additional job opportunities along the value chain, sustain national food security, and reduce fish imports in the face of depleting capture fish stocks. It is gratifying to note that aquaculture production has increased over the years, recording the highest production figure of 132, 652 metric tonnes in 2022'.

Prof. Emmanuel Anokye Frimpong, Professor of Fish Ecology at the Virginia Polytechnic and State University and Director of the CART4D Consultancy, who gave the Keynote Address, declared that as a sector that is expected to make a substantial contribution to food security, aquaculture needs to do more. He said that even if aquaculture had registered some increases, 'more fish does not necessarily mean affordable fish' He called for 'species and systems diversification', pointing it out that 'we have been stuck with one thing for too long'.

Mr. Hanson Dzamefe, Bono Regional Director of the Fisheries Commission, said that whilst tilapia remained the dominant species in production currently, catfish was gaining prominence, and was on course to become a major factor in Ghanaian aquaculture. And Mr. Seyram Amanie-Adjei, a Trainer at Agritop Ltd, urged the aquaculture industry to promote *Heterotis niloticus* beyond the current use for 'momoni', a flavouring in soups and stews. *Heterotis*, he said, is tasty and grows to good size in relatively fast time, and

with the current improvement in information on its breeding and feeding, *Heterotis* could become a major factor in national aquaculture.

Dr. Francis Anani, Senior Research Scientist at the CSIR Aquaculture Research and Development Centre, gave an update on the Alternative Feed Programme. The Programme is a collaboration between the Ghana National Aquaculture Association, the Fisheries Commission and the Norwegian Agency For Development (NORAD), which is providing funds under the Fish 4 Development programme. Following presentations by experienced scientists and farmers at a workshop in November last year, trials at three farm locations have been held, and should be completed well before the end of the year.

Dr. Anani reported that data so far collected indicated that the feeds so far tested were of good quality.

Dr. Amy Atter, Senior Research Scientist at the CSIR Food Research Institute, emphasized that the full benefits of farmed fish can best be obtained by processing. The benefits include enhanced nutrition, improvement of the quality and safety, enhanced demand, market expansion and increased customer convenience. The FRI has made significant improvements in the fish processing devices, making them safer and enhancing the export potential of farmed fish. Quite a number of entrepreneurs have been trained in various processing methods, and some of them have obtained FDA certification for their products. These major successes were achieved under the EU funded Healthy Foods Africa project.



TRAINING/AWARENESS WORKSHOPS FOR FISH FARMERS STARTS ON 5th SEPTEMBER



The Ghana National Aquaculture Association, in collaboration with the Fisheries Commission, is mounting a series of training and awareness creation workshops across the nation. The programme will start at the Honey and Milk Fish Farm at Jomoro in the Western Region, on Tuesday, 10th September. Resource persons will be drawn from the Fisheries Commission, with an input from and Environmental Protection Agency.

The programme will update the skills of fish farmers, and enable them to optimize production. Although most farmers complain about cost of feed as their main challenge, many of them need current skills in issues like water, feed and fish health management. They need to have effective biosecurity and waste management plans. The programme will enable them to go through the permit process, with the assistance of the Regional

Directorate of the Commission and the EPA.

It is also expected that by the end of the course, farmers will be able to produce good quality fish to meet the requirements of the hotel, restaurant and export customers. The Association has started supplying fish to the hotels and restaurants, and is about to start supplying an export company. This arrangement will be extended to all farms in the Regions, and quality is a major requirement.

Workshops will be run in The Bono and Greater Accra Regions in October, followed by the Eastern Region Regional Representatives are organizing details of the programme. Farmers in each Region will be divided into groups to ensure that all locations are covered. Farmers may contact their Regional Representatives for information.

The Fish Farm Tracker is an app developed by the CSIR Water Research Institute, in collaboration with other partners, intended to make life easier for the fish farmer. It enables the farmer to take and record measurements of water, temperature, feed, purchases and other important information. It makes it possible to analyze these measurements on weekly, monthly or other basis. The app can be easily downloaded from Google Play Store or App Store.

Among other benefits, the app makes it possible for the farmer to monitor the health status and feed consumption of the fish. It also makes it possible to monitor expenditure on ingredients, salaries and sales. You can download it today!

Have You Installed The Fish Farm Tracker App?

download it from Google Play Store or App Store.



NEW PRODUCT

A new container for delivering fingerlings to fish farms has been introduced. It is designed to solve a major problem facing fish farmers - the arrival of fingerlings in poor shape. With the arrival of this product, fingerlings can be delivered in good condition, to ensure that farmers start off with good quality material. The product is the result of collaboration between R and B Farms and Duraplast.

Mr. Ben Turkson a Partner and Director of Operations at R and B Farms, said that “we are pleased to introduce a product that will make a major contribution to fish farming in Ghana and neighbouring countries. Very often, fingerlings arrive at the fish farms in poor shape due to the conditions under which they were conveyed. We did our homework, and created a device which is robust and comfortable for the fingerlings.”

The container will soon be available at convenient locations for fish farmers to purchase. You may call 020 463 1952x for further information.



'AQUACULTURE FOR FOOD AND JOBS LAUNCHED ON JULY 31

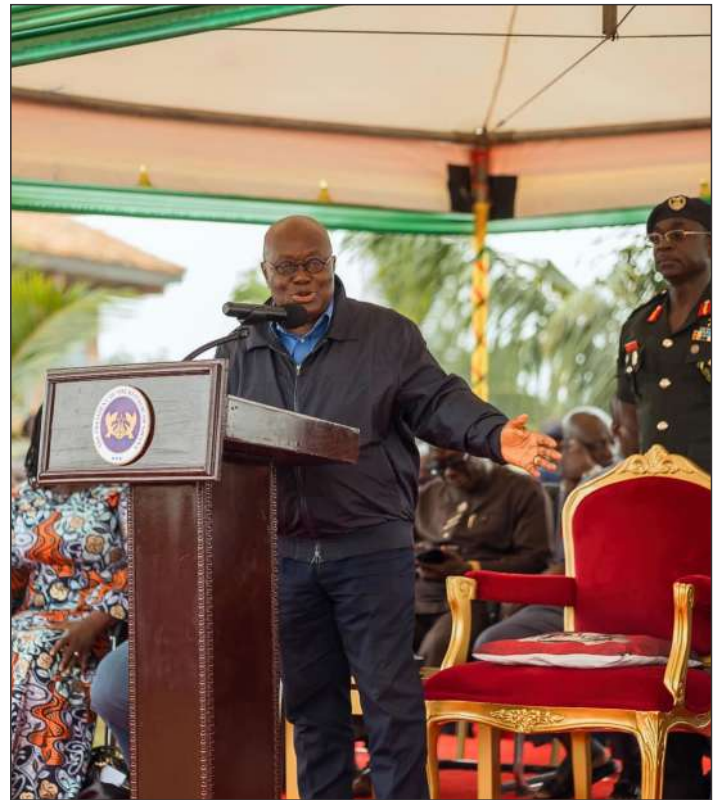
The President, Nana Addo Danquah Akuffo Addo, launched the 'Aquaculture For Food and Jobs' programme at the R and B Farms at Agona Nsuaem in the Central Region, on July 31.

The programme, a collaboration between government and R and B Farms, is equipping 10,000 youth with training, start-up capital to enable them start and run fish farms. It is expected to contribute 20,000 tonnes of fish per year, create 60,000 jobs across the aquaculture value chain and contribute \$40 million to GDP.

Before the launch, a training of trainers workshop was run at R and B Farms, at which 30 trainers were prepared to deliver a training package to 10,000 beneficiaries, to enable them run profitably. The beneficiaries will receive regular support and monitoring.

Launching the programme, President Akuffo-Addo said that “In Ghana, fish is a staple in our diet, contributing substantially to our nutrition intake. However the demand for fish far exceeds the supply, leading to a reliance on imports which drains our foreign exchange reserves. In 2022 for instance, Ghana's total fish requirement was some 1.3 million tonnes. However our domestic production was some 657,000 metric tonnes, necessitating the import of some 650,000 tonnes of fish with a total value of \$311 million to ensure food and nutrition security. This reliance on imports underscores the critical gap we face in meeting our nation's fish consumption needs. The Aquaculture for Food And Jobs programme aims to reverse this trend by boosting fish production in Ghana. By doing so, we will reduce our dependence on imported fish, keep our hard earned foreign currency for other important activities, and ensure that our people have access to fresh, locally produced fish.”
Photos From the launch

The programme is certainly a good thing for the aquaculture industry, as it will increase the numbers of trained fish farmers across the nation. For each one of the 10,000 trainees, we expect that at least five more people will add to the numbers of fish farmers, and we expect bigger additions to national output figures.



DRAFT NEW FISHERIES LAW NEARING COMPLETION

The Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development hosted a workshop on the draft new Fisheries Law in Sunyani on 21st and 22nd August. A number of agencies and associations in the industry were represented. Some District heads from the Northern Sector were also represented. Senior academic personnel were also available.

The draft new law was actively discussed, and new ideas introduced for inclusion. The programme provided a great opportunity for fish farmers to share ideas, and discuss the forthcoming training programme

for fish farmers, which will be rolled across the nation. The district heads expressed great interest in hosting the programme. Although there are many farmers in the northern sector, most of them lack the required skills and awareness, and the programme is expected to lead to an optimization of aquaculture all over Ghana.

The final draft of the Law will be presented for validation very soon. Here are a few pictures from the event;



Group Picture



Group Discussion

**WE NEED
YOUR HELP**

The Association is taking some major steps to serve the interests of fish farmers and we need your help.

1. We have just concluded arrangements for renting office space strategically located in the compound of the Ministry of Information in Accra.
2. We are rolling out a series of courses aimed at enabling farmers to optimize production. The first course comes off at the Jomoro District on Tuesday, 10th September.
3. We are making arrangements for national elections to choose officers to serve the Association.

These projects require funding. You can help us achieve these objectives by sending your annual subscription fee of 100 cedis. Or you can make a further donation. Please make payment to the National Treasurer, **Mrs. Mabel Quarshie, MoMo number 053 811 3345. Or you can pay it into the Associations ADB bank account No. 1010168445501. Thank you**