



BLUE FOOD VALUE CHAIN SOLUTIONS

Nigeria

MOBILISING KNOWLEDGE

Catfish cluster management to invigorate the aquaculture industry

➔ ISSUE

The catfish industry in Nigeria is dominated by small-scale farmers operating their fish ponds informally. However, as more farmers seek to increase productivity and profitability, there is a growing trend towards commercial catfish farming. Fish clusters can lead the way in making the catfish industry more businesslike and overcome obstacles related to infrastructure, finance and market access. By working within catfish clusters, farmers can save costs and make efficiency gains by sharing resources, labour and knowledge, which stimulates growth and contributes to the country's economy.

➔ ACTIONS TAKEN

To develop a sustainable aquaculture industry, FISH4ACP is helping catfish clusters to improve management and fish production practices in five clusters throughout Nigeria, reaching an estimated 600 farmers. FISH4ACP works with relevant stakeholders and partners to enable catfish farmers to pool resources and share investments in the areas of inputs, energy supply, processing, value addition, finance, and market access. By working together in a cluster, farmers can negotiate better prices for inputs like feed and equipment. Farmers can also exchange knowledge and best practices to improve farming techniques and increase productivity. Moreover, collaboration can help mitigate risks such as disease outbreaks through collective action and shared expertise.

FISH4ACP

Unlocking the potential
of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture
in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific



LOCATION	Five catfish clusters in five states of Nigeria
PARTNERS	Research institutes, non-governmental organizations, private sector, universities
TARGET	Small-scale catfish farmers
DURATION	15 months
COST (USD)	1 580 000

I like fish farming. It gives you a bright future and makes you give back to the society, because you are feeding the nation.

Nurudeen Quadri
Catfish farmer



→ RESULTS

FISH4ACP's support will help catfish farmers to adopt best practices in fish farm management and operations. This will enable the farmers to make evidence-based decisions to increase the productivity of their farms and the quality of their fish, while strengthening value addition and expanding market access. Empowering catfish clusters will improve food security, stimulate economic growth, create employment and reduce poverty in local communities.

→ POTENTIAL FOR SYSTEM CHANGE

By improving the business management of five catfish clusters, FISH4ACP is trialling, testing and presenting a model on how Nigeria's huge catfish industry can develop into a more businesslike sector. This can significantly boost domestic production and make catfish more affordable, thereby improving food security, stimulating economic growth and generating employment.

→ SUSTAINABILITY & TRANSFERABILITY

FISH4ACP's support to small-scale farmers can be adopted and replicated across Nigeria. The benefits of improved cluster management provide a proof-of-concept for upscaling and replication across clusters within and outside the country.

→ OUR GOAL

Make Nigeria's catfish sector more resilient and efficient in providing affordable food for its population, creating jobs and business opportunities, while reducing harm to human health and lessening the burden on the environment.



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