



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

ENHANCING AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT AND AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES POST-HARVEST VALUE CHAINS IN CENTRAL ASIA

In Central Asia, the aquaculture and fisheries sectors remain largely underdeveloped. Despite recent increases in production over the past ten years, their contribution to national economies remains limited. However, these sectors tend to feature small-scale enterprises and traditional fishing communities, and therefore make significant contributions to livelihoods, rural poverty alleviation and food security. In recent years fish consumption in the region has been slowly increasing, a trend that has been attributed to enhanced aquaculture production, which, while increasing the availability of fish products has also lowered prices. Governments across the region are recognizing the potential for the aquaculture sector to support economic growth, improve livelihoods and food security, and as a result, they are starting to prioritize sector development. Despite the potential for aquaculture development across the region, the current growth of the sector in many countries remains limited. In view of this, the project was implemented as a regional programme to support aquaculture development and aquaculture and fisheries post-harvest value chains in seven countries (Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan).



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project effectively built institutional, technical and scientific capacities to collectively improve management support for aquaculture and fisheries value chain development, at both country and regional levels. This was achieved through training sessions and national and regional workshops, which addressed important aspects of aquaculture development, management and production, as well as introducing best practices to the region. Over 1 349 beneficiaries were trained in face-to-face and virtual meetings. Training was also provided to enhance on-farm biosecurity and fish health management. In this context, laboratory diagnostic and aquafeed manufacturing equipment was procured and delivered to the target countries. The project surveyed institutional capacity to provide fish product quality assurance services in the target countries. Based on the survey findings, regional training focused on providing technical support to improve product sampling methodologies, laboratory management systems, and accreditation processes of food control laboratories. An effective exchange programme was developed for each of the participating countries, comprising appropriate short-term exchange visits and study tours addressing a wide range of production issues such as improved fish health management systems, food safety, quality assurance and certification systems, among others. In addition, a webinar series was developed to create a briefing, discussion and networking platform for key stakeholders from the seven participating countries, and to facilitate exchanges of experiences, success stories, ideas, and challenges specific to the industries.

KEY FACTS

Latest Approved Budget
USD 1 000 000

Duration
January 2020–January 2024

Resource Partner
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Türkiye (MAF)

Partners
Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Azerbaijan; Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan; Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Resources of the Kyrgyz Republic; Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Tajikistan; Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Türkiye; Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of Turkmenistan; and Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Beneficiaries
Government technical staff involved in the management of aquaculture; fisheries research and education institutions; policy-makers; extension agents; fish farmers; hatchery managers; representatives of fishers' organizations; traders; processors

IMPACT

Optimizing the efficiency of a wide range of technical, administrative and production issues related to the aquaculture and fisheries value chains across the region was addressed in the project. Improving the productivity of these value chains increases the economic efficiencies of the production sectors and yields tangible economic benefits for the actors along the value chain. In addition, the technical focus on improving the technical capacity of farmers and fish processors to improve their production techniques increased production efficiencies, which become self-sustaining when implemented.

ACTIVITIES

- 28 training sessions and national and regional workshops held to improve technical and institutional capacity across recipient countries (927 participants), comprising six regional workshops.
- Educational colouring book about fish, for primary schoolchildren, published in English, Russian, Turkish, Azerbaijani, and Turkmen.
- Four exchange visits conducted for 20 national experts.
- Nine study tours undertaken.
- Seven industry briefing webinars conducted virtually for 498 participants.
- National-level interventions developed for each participating country, supporting strategic aquaculture planning initiatives, including studies to establish disease prevalence.
- National workshops organized in target countries to discuss key challenges and opportunities facing aquaculture and fisheries development (Azerbaijan); to support development of small-scale fish farms to improve household living standards (Uzbekistan); and to promote sustainable development of fish farming (Kazakhstan), among others.
- National-level provision of laboratory equipment (Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan), water quality monitoring equipment (Turkmenistan) and feed manufacturing equipment (Tajikistan).
- Kyrgyzstan: development and ratification of the “National Aquaculture and Fisheries Programme (2024-2028)”.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Project Title

Capacity Development for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture Management in Central Asia (FISHCap) (Phase I aquaculture and food safety)

Project Code

FAO: GCP/SEC/013/TUR

Contact

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