

Special Initiative "One World - No Hunger" (SEWOH)  
Global Programme Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture

# Newsletter #8

12.12.2022

Dear reader,

Welcome to the 8th issue of the **Global Programme Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture newsletter**.

2022 was a special year for us, as the United Nations General Assembly declared it the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA 2022). This year aims to shine a spotlight on small-scale fisheries, fish farmers and the people along the fish value chain. Their role in securing the access to food and nutrition has long gone unnoticed.

In this issue we, the Global Programme for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture, want to give a stage to our beneficiaries and share our endeavours to support their work with you.

We like to thank you for the excellent cooperation in the course of the past year and wish you peaceful holidays and a happy New Year. And without further ado, we hope you enjoy reading!

The Communication Team

# International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYAFA 2022)



In this issue you will find articles from our modules in:

**Madagascar**



**Zambia**



**Cambodia**



**Malawi**



**India**



**Uganda**



# Carp farming in Madagascar: A small production with a big impact



**Jacqueline, a mother of four children, has been practising rice-fish farming by raising common carp in her rice fields since 2005. She sells the produced fish and fingerlings at the local market.**



Jacqueline, is a farmer in the highlands of Madagascar who got supported by the NGO APDRA and the project Sustainable Aquaculture in Madagascar (PADM). In the last season, she obtained 75 kg of fish and 36,000 fingerlings on 60 acres of rice fields. At a first glance, this production seems low, but it is actually very valuable for Jacqueline.

The carp releases additional nutrients in the fields while searching for food in the soils. This increases rice production by 20%. Because of the high selling price of fish and fingerlings and low production costs, this activity brings significant income: "Rice-fish farming does not bring large quantities of fish for each producer, but the benefits are great because the expenses are small". It has enabled Jacqueline's family to send their children to better schools and buy a new home. Jacqueline runs the fish farm with the help of her husband: "We both take care of all the stages of the fish production, because in case of illness or absence of one of us, the other has to be able to manage the fish farm. However, I am responsible for selling the fish."

Thanks to the fish production, her family as well as her customers at the local market can eat fresh animal protein on a regular basis. "The fish I sell is particularly appreciated [...] because of its freshness" Jacqueline says. The other fish products sold on the market come from the west coast of Madagascar, have travelled a long distance and are often in a rather poor condition. Therefore, Jacqueline's rice-fish production provides quality protein to Madagascar's rural areas.



*Jacqueline's and her husband fishing in the refuge channel of the rice fields. © Sandy Ramangasalama / APDRA*

# Upswing for aquaculture in Madagascar



**Despite various bottlenecks facing the sector, aquaculture is on the upswing in Madagascar. Being “à la mode” in the rural areas, small-scale farmers have increased interest in fish production.**



The Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy used the momentum of IYAFA 2022 to celebrate small-scale aquaculture and fisheries in the country. The project Sustainable Aquaculture in Madagascar (PADM) supported the elaboration and official launch of the national development plan on continental aquaculture in August. After three regional multi-stakeholder workshops on

the impacts of climate change on the sector, possible adaptation options were identified with different stakeholders in November to finalize the first study on climate change adaptation for Madagascar’s freshwater aquaculture sector. Trade fairs in the regions have been joined by the PADM team to promote the nutritional value of fish and reach farmers in the provinces.



*The minister of the Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy together with the PADM project leader at the official ceremony of the national development plan on continental aquaculture. © GIZ / PADM.*

## Taking IYAFA to the fishing communities



In light of IYAFA 2022 the Fish for Food Security project, together with partners like the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Zambia and the Department of Fisheries, held an event in the Chipangali district: “taking IYAFA to the fishing communities”.



The Fish for Food Security project (F4F) is working to sustainably rehabilitate dam-based fisheries, including the strengthening of dam committees for responsible management of fisheries in selected districts in the Eastern Province of Zambia. All the 10 Dams that the F4F project is working with, have functional Dam Management Committees in place, that oversee the dams and the areas around them.

Under the theme: “Enhancing small-scale fisheries – Improving livelihoods”, the IYAFA event took place on April 13<sup>th</sup> 2022 in the fishing communities surrounding Rukuzye and Mapala Dams. While appreciating the role played by the small-scale fisheries in contributing to the nation’s food security, the fishing community also commends the work being done by the different organizations in the fisheries and aquaculture sector. Through several activities, including role plays that focused on the issues of dam

management in the two fishing communities and picture charade relating to fisheries management, the participants were playfully engaged. The successful event attracted over 100 people that live around the Rukuzye and Mapala Dams.



*Community members of the Rukuzye and Mapala Dams play picture charades. © GIZ / F4F*

# Small-scale aquaculture improves livelihoods of rural farmers



**Meet Mr. Thouk Ret and his wife Ms. Chhoeun Sim at their home in the Kuy Akphiwat village, Kampong Thom. Their land is part of a social land concession to establish residences and generate income through agriculture.**



As a beneficiary of the Sustainable Aquaculture and Fishery Refuges project (SAFR) the GIZ supported Mr. Thouk Ret in excavating a small fishpond behind his house. “When GIZ approached me and built the fishpond, I did not have any idea about fish farming,” Mr. Thouk Ret explains. “The project has provided me with training and familiarized me with basic fish culture techniques, such as preparing and stocking the fishpond, water and fish health management and record keeping.” In his 70 m<sup>2</sup> pond, he is culturing 350 Tilapia, a fish that is known for its richness in protein, vitamins and minerals.

An additional benefit of the fish farming is using the nutrient rich pond water to irrigate his vegetables, which according to Mr. Thouk Ret “are growing very well”. After three months he and his wife harvested about 5.5 kg of fish for their own and vegetables for both personal consumption and selling, having already generated 45 USD of income.

“The fishpond has started to play an important role in sustaining and improving our livelihood. [...] Soon, when the fish are bigger, I can also sell some of it, as the market price for Tilapia is much better than for other fish. I plan to expand my fishpond within coming years.”



*Mr. Thouk Ret showing his fish pond, that was build by the Sustainable Aquaculture and Fishery Refuges project (left) and crops from his garden, that were irrigated with the nutrient rich pond water (right). © GIZ / SAFR*

## Small scale fisheries - Small by name, but huge in value



For the commemoration of IYAFA 2022, the Sustainable Aquaculture and Community Fish Refuge Management Project in Cambodia supported the Kampong Tom Provincial Department of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries to organize the Provincial Fish Day on July 28<sup>th</sup> 2022.



The event is organized every year to raise awareness and encourage all parties to actively take part in protecting and extracting fishery resources in a sustainable way. It is also for heralding the importance of small-scale fisheries to rural livelihoods, income generation and food and nutrition security. Six hundred students, villagers, local authorities and relevant government officials attended the event. The Governor emphasized that the small-scale fisheries are small by name, but huge in value as it is one of the crucial sources of healthy food at an affordable price to thousands of people in Kampong Thom province as well many more in the country. He urged everyone to actively and proactively take part in the sustainable management of fisheries resources.

During the event, 110 kg of indigenous brood stocks and 60,000 fingerlings were released into the multipurpose reservoir, that is used by community members as fish refuge and for the irrigation of rice and cash crops.

Other project activities dedicated to IYAFA 2022 include the training of 60 Community Fish Refuge (CFR) management committee and community members, the dissemination of information as well as spreading awareness to 3,280 students, teachers, community members and local authorities, and last but not least releasing another 27,500 fingerlings into eight different CFRs.



*The provincial governor of Kampong Thom H. E. Nguon Ratanak releasing fingerlings to the Community Fish Reservoir. © GIZ / SAFR*

# My community, my responsibility – An inclusive approach to fish farming in Malawi



**When Odoi and Florence Mwangonde, fish farmers from Mzuzu in the Northern Region of Malawi, first started their family business, they were met with scepticism from their community. But they proved them wrong when they turned their water-logged land full of horticultural crops into a fish farming site with 13 ponds stretching 3.5 hectares.**



To support operations, the family-run business received training on good aquaculture practices through the Aquaculture Value Chain Project (AVCP) in Malawi. The training helped Odoi and Florence to plan more efficiently, cutting unnecessary costs and making the highest possible revenue.

While the Mwangondes face a number of challenges including lack of qualified staff, scarcity of quality fish feed and slow growth rates of indigenous fish species, they focus on devising short- and long-term solutions for their fish farming business, always keeping their community in mind. To avoid pollution in the surrounding communities and to maximise land use, Odoi and Florence integrated banana plantations in their farm, using pond water for irrigation. This integration also helped them to increase revenue and profits from the farm. Currently the farm produces nine tons per year, feeding up to 10,500 people in the Mzuzu region, but the Mwangondes hope to become large fish and fingerling

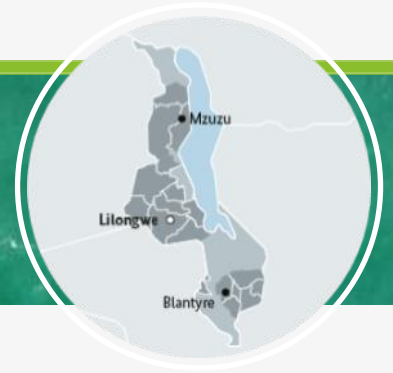
producers in the future, able to supply their community and beyond. With every new member, the Mwangondes' commitment to their community only grows: "Every time we hear a baby is born in our community, we are very happy because we know that we have one more mouth to feed. We are proud to be part of a journey to provide affordable protein to our community", says Mr. Mwangonde.



*Farm manager Malase Mwangonde and a farm worker preparing the seine net for harvesting. © GIZ / AVCP*



# Malawi's aquaculture in the limelight



**Under the umbrella of IYAFA 2022, which was officially launched in Malawi on May 5<sup>th</sup>, the country has taken various steps to raise awareness on the role of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture.**



With support from the Aquaculture Value Chain Project (AVCP) in Malawi, the Government of Malawi organized a National Policy Research Seminar to increase policy focus in the sector, and celebrated the strengthening of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) based aquaculture competences at two national graduation ceremonies. The launch event for a nation-wide Fish for Nutrition sensitization campaign at primary schools highlighted the importance

of fish – and, as a consequence, the importance of sustainable aquaculture – for human well-being and healthy food systems. On regional level, Malawi organised a Regional Dialogue towards Building Resilience and Adaptation in Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture. The dialogue aimed at increasing the contribution of fish to food security and economic development in the SADC region, among others.



*Participants of the panel discussion at the National Policy Research Dissemination Seminar. © GIZ / AVCP*

# Carrying forward a father's legacy - Empowerment through sustainable aquaculture



**Born to a family of 8 in East Karbi Anglong district (Assam, India), Znadi Nunisa never thought she would be following in her father's footsteps. Although she had graduated from college, she was unable to secure a job to provide for her family. Therefore, it was Znadi who reactivated her father's aquaculture pond after his passing.**



Through an awareness campaign by Kalong Kapili, a local NGO, Znadi came to know about their sustainable aquaculture training program supported by the Sustainable Aquaculture for Food and Livelihood project (SAFAL). Motivated to reinstate her family pond, she enlisted herself for the program. Through the training, she learned about aquaculture pond management including the right stocking density, feeding and water parameters as well as managing the finances of her new business.

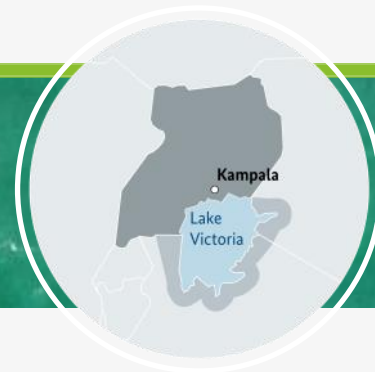
Successful application of the training led to an uprising of her aquaculture farm, resulting in high productivity of fish and finally in starting her own fish seed hatchery. These seeds are sold to farmers in her community, who are happy to receive good quality fingerlings. As a Community Resource Person (CRP), she furthermore acts as a multiplier of the gained knowledge about sustainable aquaculture, which she provides to fellow farmers in her region.

Znadi says "Getting acknowledged as a CRP was a life-changing experience and I could gain individuality in my community through the knowledge gained from the training." She feels confident that she will now be able to carry on her father's legacy to an environment-friendly and sustainable aquaculture practice while securing her family's financial autonomy.



*Znadi Nunisa liming her family pond in East Karbi Anglong district, Assam. © Laxmi Nunisa GIZ / SAFAL*

# International Conference of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (ICAFA) 2022



**As part of celebrations of the IYFA 2022 the International Conference of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (ICAFA) was held from 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2022 in Jinja, Uganda.**



The conference was organized by the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization and the Responsible Fisheries Business Chains Project (RFBCP) in collaboration with political partners like the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, and non-governmental organizations such as the Sustainable Fisheries Initiatives and World Fish.

The purpose of the conference was to discuss innovations and share experiences on key issues affecting small-scale fisheries and aquaculture. Topics were ranging from management and re-financing of the sector to new technologies in sustainable fisheries and aquaculture.

The highlight of the event were the practical climate-smart solutions that youth and women groups exhibited, including the upcycling of plastic, tires and CDs into floor tiles, bricks or even lighting infrastructure.

The ICAFA event was attended by 300 participants including RFBCP implementing partners as well as students, women groups and scientists from different research institutions and universities from all over the world. The conference achieved its main objective of promoting awareness and recognizing the role of small-scale fisheries towards food security and nutrition with a specific focus on the youth and women.



*Participants at the International Conference of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (ICAFA 2022). ©GIZ / RFBCP*



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