



agriculture,
forestry & fisheries

Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

The AASA Conference in 2019 will commence on Mon, 9 Sept with the theme:



“Inspire / Accelerate / Impact”

Fish provided about 3.2 billion people with almost 20 percent of their average per capita intake of animal protein (FAO 2018). Despite their relatively low levels of fish consumption, people in developing countries have a higher share of fish protein in their diets than those in developed countries. The highest per capita fish consumption, over 50 kg, is found in several small island developing states, particularly in Oceania, while the lowest levels, just above 2 kg, are in Central Asia and some land locked countries. Ghana is regarded as the country with the 6th highest per capita consumption of fish. Ghanaians consume an average of 23 kg of fish per person per year, well above the global average of 16 kg per person per year.

Aquaculture continues to grow faster than other major food production sectors although it no longer enjoys the high annual growth rates of the 1980s and 1990s (11.3 and 10.0 percent, excluding aquatic plants). Average annual growth declined to 5.8 percent during the period 2000 – 2016, although double digit growth still occurred in a small number of individual countries, particularly in Africa from 2006 to 2010.

Global aquaculture production in 2016 included 80.0 million tonnes of food fish and 30.1 million tonnes of aquatic plants, as well as 37 900 tonnes of non-food products. Farmed food fish production included 54.1 million tonnes of finfish, 17.1 million tonnes of molluscs, 7.9 million tonnes of crustaceans and 938 500 tonnes of other aquatic animals. China, by far the major producer of farmed food fish in 2016, has produced more than the rest of the world combined every year since 1991. The other major producers in 2016 were India, Indonesia, Viet-Nam, Bangladesh, Egypt and Norway.

Fish consumption in Sub-Saharan Africa has been decreasing as supply decreases relative to a growing population: from 9 kg per capita in 1990 to 6 kg per person at present. This can be contributed to accessibility, affordability and availability of fish. The attributes of Sub-Saharan Africa include under-utilized water and land resources, available and inexpensive labour, high demand for fish and a climate that favours a year-round growing period. However, optimal use of these resources has frequently been curtailed by poor infrastructure and lack of production inputs. The potential for expansion is nevertheless considerable, but requires several enabling factors that include: a positive perception of aquaculture, sound policies at the national level, strong public institutions, availability of nutrient inputs, conducive investment policies to attract increased private-sector participation, and access to credit for commercial-scale enterprises.

South Africa ranks tenth in Africa, producing close to 5 500 tonnes in 2015, which represents approximately 0.3% of the African continents total production.

The key constrains to the South African aquaculture sector are the following:

- Uncoordinated institutional environment;
- Lack of appropriate technology;
- Difficulties in obtaining suitable culture sites;
- Inadequate public-sector support measures to pioneer farmers;
- High production cost;
- Lack of local quality feed; and
- Lack of access to suitable water quantity and quality for freshwater aquaculture

In South Africa we have done all the talk shows, on various platforms, in the past couple of years. Now it is the time for action and to increase our Aquaculture production as a country and in our region.

It is time to:

Inspire the people / **Accelerate** production / **Impact** the economy

References:

- The Future of the Western Cape Agricultural Sector in the context of the 4th Industrial Revolution, Review: Aquaculture, October 2017, University of Stellenbosch Business School.
- The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture, Meeting the Sustainable Development Goals, 2018, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.
- Fish and Aquaculture Sector, WESGRO, Cape Town & Western Cape Research, 2018.

Please click on [Call for Abstracts – opens 15 November 2018](#) on the Conference page for the abstract submission form and general abstract guidelines.