



AFRAQ24: AQUATIC ANIMAL AND ECOSYSTEM HEALTH SESSION

Last Call for abstracts and exhibitors

THEME: Aquaculture bio-security and bio-safety for climate-smart aquaculture development in Africa: The merits of regional collaboration for sustainability

Propelling the sustainable development while simultaneously transforming Africa's aquaculture sub-sector into a robust Agri-food system is the question at hand for Africa's aquaculture stakeholders. The continent's Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture (PFRS) and the Africa Blue Economy Strategy (ABES) have opened opportunities that enhance the prospects for diversifying and expanding the profile the continent's aquaculture value chains. Access to emerging regional and global markets through safe and equitable trade, is a key feature of this.

Achieving this aspiration depends on the extent to which the continent can safeguard the integrity of its largely transboundary aquatic ecosystems and resources. Demographic changes, increased levels of environmental degradation and climate-change impacts have become apparent threats affecting the integrity Africa's aquatic ecosystems and resources. The supply and quality of Africa's water resources is affronted by El-Nino oscillations that have caused higher frequencies and greater intensities of precipitation, storms, droughts with consequent flooding, rise in water levels of water bodies, siltation, pollution, turbidity, water temperatures, and falls dissolved oxygen. These consequences of such environmental stressors for aquatic animal health and welfare, aquatic biodiversity, food-safety and public health, are quite well known.

The sustainable supply of good quality water, feed ingredients and feedstuffs, fish seed and the health of aquaculture stock can only be assured for sustainable development, if aquatic ecosystem is healthy. Recognizing this, Africa as a continent, has opted to strengthen its capacity for aquatic animal health and biosecurity control coherently from a transboundary approach, where river basins and marine ecosystems constitute the primary ecological epidemiological unit. Bearing in mind the multiplicity of factors influencing the sustainable management of water resources for productive uses such as fisheries and aquaculture, the need for multisectoral and multi-stakeholder inter-regional collaboration becomes evident. The African Union Commission thus envisages a continental Aquatic Animal Health Strategy to galvanize concerted collective action as a partnership between the sectors' multiple-stakeholders.

Please urgently submit your Abstracts online before 25 October 2024

Conference attendees interested in organizing topic-centered sessions are welcome!

Watch out for the sessions outline on the programme grid (to be uploaded soon).

Should you have any queries, please contact Session Chair: Nelly Isyagi nisyagi@gmail.com

Additional details about the conference, exhibitions and to submit abstracts: <https://www.was.org/meeting>

