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# NATIONAL VISION FOR AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

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## INTRODUCTION

Nigeria is a high fish consuming nation with fish demand of 3.6 million metric tonnes but only produces 1.13 million metric tonnes of fish from all sources (capture and aquaculture) leaving a demand-supply gap of 2.5 million metric tonnes. Due to the declining catch from capture fisheries as a result of overfishing, obnoxious fishing methods, climate change, pollution, IUU fishing etc. Therefore aquaculture is the only sustainable alternative means of production that can bridge this demand-supply gap. It has potentials of 2.66 million metric tonnes in the country.





## INTRODUCTION... CONTINUES

- The sector is mainly private sector driven with the Government providing policies and the enabling environment for the sector to thrive well. The Nigerian aquaculture sector over the years has been dominated by the monoculture of the African catfish *Clarias gariepinus* through various fish production systems such as earthen and concrete ponds, reinforced fibre glass tanks, water circulatory system, collapsible tanks and currently small scale and commercial fish cage culture farming etc.
- The sector contributes significantly to the National Economy in terms of food and nutrition security, job creation, poverty alleviation, source of raw materials to agro allied industries and improved livelihood of Nigerians etc. Fish contributes about 40% of animal protein requirement of Nigerians. The sector contributes 4.5% to the National gross domestic production.



## BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON AQUACULTURE

- ❑ Total available inland Water suitable for aquaculture development 1.75million Ha
- ❑ Yield potential : 15tons /ha/yr
- ❑ Total Inland water surface Area 14 Million hectares
- ❑ Estimated Aquaculture Potential 2.66 Million Metric tons
- ❑ Current Production 313, 231 Metric tons
- ❑ Minimum Fingerling Requirement in Nigeria 5Billion



## POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

- The Government has put in place several policies and programmes towards aquaculture development, recent amongst other policies are; Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA)(2011 – 2014), The Green Alternative (2016 -2018), National Agricultural Transformation and Innovation Programme (NATIP) (2022 – 2027). These policy plans are all aimed at achieving self sufficiency in fish production especially in the aquaculture subsector.
- The development and modernization of the means of fish production, processing, storage and marketing by the adoption of improved technology and management practices.





## POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

- To accelerate Fisheries and Aquaculture production through private sector led investment in collaboration with the public sector and by all operators in the fisheries subsector.
- To pursue deliberate policies of annual import reduction.
- To upgrade the quality assurance system to protect consumers and make products meet international best practices and export requirements.
- Technology transfer and skill development.





## POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

- As part of Government effort to improve the aquaculture subsector, programmes were initiated and implemented. These include

### i. **Establishment of fish farm clusters**

They were established to create jobs for the youth and women in rural communities and to reduce youth restiveness.

### ii. **Cage culture: -**

Some selected water bodies were identified across the country that have potentials for cage culture farming system, were stocked with fish juveniles to grow to fish food size. The system was recommended as an alternative source of income to fishermen during off-season.

### iii. **Homestead fish farming system: -**

Awareness campaign was staged out by the Department to popularize fish farming in fibre glass tanks, concrete tanks, collapsible tanks etc aimed at creating jobs and increased fish production.





## POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

### iv. Certification of Aquaculture Farms: -

This is to ensure that farms comply with International best practices to ensure that their products can be fit for local consumption and export.

### v. Distribution of Aquaculture inputs: -

Fish feeds, fish juveniles, collapsible tanks and smoking kilns were distributed to flood affected fish farmers in some selected prone states to alleviate their sufferings.





## POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

### vi. Smoking kilns: -

Currently smoking kilns are being distributed in some selected states to fish farmers and fisher folks for value addition on fish and fisheries products and to also reduce post harvest losses.





## CHALLENGES

- Inadequate and high cost of quality fish feeds
- Inadequate and high cost of quality fish seed
- Inadequate database on which to formulate developmental processes
- Inadequate research-extension back up to aquaculture and fish farming development
- Inadequate facilities for genetic improvement, disease identification and control





## CHALLENGES

- Inadequate support for the research into our indigenous species for diversification.
- Inadequate competent experience technical manpower
- Unavailable access to institutionalized credit for aquaculture development
- Lack of credit and insurance cover for fish farming entrepreneurs
- Post harvest losses





## PROPOSAL TO REPOSITION THE AQUACULTURE SECTOR

- Development of fish disease support services through establishment of disease diagnostic centres and capacity building on fish diseases and hatchery management.
- Encouragement of small and big commercial fish farmers, aquaculture associations and the organized private sector to participate in the investment and production of fish under aquaculture programmes.
- In order to encourage private participation and aquaculture production, the Federal Government planned to give out on concession the five model aquaculture technology transfer centres on public private partnership to increase fish production in Nigeria.





## PROPOSAL TO REPOSITION THE AQUACULTURE SECTOR.... CONTD

- Upgrade/review of the Fisheries policy and all fisheries regulatory instruments to conform with the present reality, (ie. Draft Fisheries Policy, National Aquaculture Strategy -NAS, National Aquaculture Development Plan- NADP, Inland Fisheries Act, Sea Fisheries Act The development of Processing, Storage and Marketing facilities.
- Funding of research institutes to identify and develop more cultivable fish species to provide choice preference to consumers.
- Data collection and management; This will include implementation of digital data collection and management for aquaculture.



## PROPOSAL TO REPOSITION THE AQUACULTURE SECTOR... CONTD

- Sensitization and Training of Fish Farmers on best aquaculture management practices.
- Establishment of effective National Safety and Quality Assurance system, that can protect consumers health and enhance foreign exchange earnings through export of fish and fishery products.
- Implementation of Backward Integration Policy to reduce fish importation and encourage local production.
- Popularization of Homestead and Backyard fish farming.
- Encouragement of the establishment of fish feed mills etc.



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## THE VISION FOR AQUACULTURE

- To be self-sufficient in fish production and have surplus for export, thereby generating foreign exchange.
- To be the number one fish producer in Africa
- To provide sustainable employment and livelihood for the teeming youths and women.
- To produce at least 500 million fingerlings in 5 years with a target of 100 million fingerlings annually
- To reduce fish importation by increasing aquaculture production
- We are looking forward to a private driven aquaculture sector in the country.
- Entrench the culture of fish farming in Nigerian households as with crops and poultry over the next 5 years(Homestead fish farming).



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## THE VISION FOR AQUACULTURE

- Mass production and exploitation of clupeids and associated fishes for fish meal production thereby reducing the cost of fish feed production and boost aquaculture production.
- Diversification of more cultivable fish species targeting commercially viable indigenous fish species such as *Lates niloticus*, *Gymnarchus niloticus*, *Labio spp* etc
- Create fish farm “clusters” for cooperation, technology transfer, training/demonstration and easier provision of inputs and technical assistance in groups of private farmers.



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## CONCLUSION

Nigeria is endowed with enormous fisheries resources consisting of large expanse of freshwater, brackish water and marine resources with potential production capacity of 2.66 million tons of fish per annum. However only negligible amount of the available resources are currently being utilized for aquaculture production.

Only 313,231 tons of fish is being produced annually.

The Government is therefore grateful to Worldfish and The Fish Innovation Lab for organizing this forum to address Nigeria's Aquaculture development in view to utilize the untapped abundant resources for increased Fish production.

Thank you and God bless us all.



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