Aquaculture Development in Rwanda

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1. CURRENT STATUS OF AQUACULTURE

- 8% of Rwanda surface area is water suitable for fish production;
- Fisheries activities are carried out in 24 lakes;
- Aquaculture production is from 45 cage farms and 96 earthen pond farms;
- 45 Private Companies registered to invest in cage farming out of which 28 already started the fish production;
- 133 cooperatives involved in pond farming among which 96 cooperatives are active;
- 2 farms involved in tank farming.
- Fish Farming in Dam where 2,184,713 Tilapia fingerlings have been stocked in 35 rice irrigation dams.

2. AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION SYSTEMS

13 private hatcheries producing around 10,000,000 fingerlings per month licensed and in the process of certification;

Cage Fish Farming: 28 operational farms in cages in Lakes Kivu, Muhazi and Ruhondo.

2 Tank fish farming and 133 pond farming out which 96 are active farms.

35 Irrigation dams stocked with 2,184,713 Tilapia fingerlings.

3. AQUACULTURE INPUTS AVAILABILITY

5 Fish Feed manufacturing Plants producing 197,500 kg while their capacity is 245,500kg/month

13 Private hatcheries requiring 657,534 kg of starter feed/Month

Cage farms currently using 636,393 kg of feed among which 594,896 kg/ month are from local factories

Pond and Tank farms requiring 84,249 kg of feed monthly

2. SUMMARY OF NATIONAL AQUACULTURE STATISTICS

- The national fish production from aquaculture in 2023 was 7,282 MT;
- Cage production is contributing to more than 90%;
- Ponds are mainly subsistence farming;
- Nile Tilapia and African catfish are the cultured species and Tilapia is the dominating species contributing to more than 99% of fish produced.

3. SUMMARY OF NATIONAL ACTION PLANS/STRATEGIES

- National Agriculture Policy and the National Strategic Plan for Agriculture Transformation (PSTA IV) are the core Agriculture Sector Strategies governing crop, animal, fisheries and aquaculture, beekeeping value chains;
- Aquaculture and fisheries sector is regulated by the Fisheries and Aquaculture Law which has a Ministerial Order Aquaculture and Fisheries;
- A new Law on Animal Productions and Health Law is being developed and will replace the Fisheries and Aquaculture Law.
- The 4th edition of Agriculture Transformation Strategy is approaching its end and a 5th Strategy is being developed and will run from July 2024-June 2029;
- National Aquaculture Strategy 2023-2035.

4. KEY CONSTRAINTS

4.1. Fish Feeds

- Access to affordable high quality fish feed
- The price fluctuation of raw material for fish feed (mainly maize, soybean and fish meal);
- Low storage capacity of feed processors;
- Access to finance for aquaculture related projects;
- Insufficient advisory services to farmers

4.2. Trade & Marketing

- Due to the high price of feed, the production cost of fish is also high and this leads to high price of farmed fish;
- The competition of imported fishes which are cheaper compared to locally produced ones;

4.3 Climate change

- Aquaculture activities are facing climate change related issues leading to physical-chemical parameters of water bodies leading to death of fish;
- Solution: an insurance scheme is being developed in order to support investors in aquaculture in case of loses.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION