



THIRD DIALOGUE WITH REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

Fisheries and Aquaculture program COMESA

Yoseph Shiferaw Mamo (PhD)

Senior Livestock and Fisheries Officer

COMESA Secretariat

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COMESA MTSP (2021 – 2025)

We are guided by the decisions of Councils of Ministers and regional and continental programs:

MTSP: Strategic Focus

1-Market integration

- Removing barriers to trade to consolidate the internal market/FTA
- Building productive capacity to enhance global competitiveness and build regional capacity

2- Productive Integration

- Agriculture and Animal Resources
- Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary
- Blue Economy Development

3- Industrialization

- Industrial Development which include agro-processing capacity and Agri-food systems
- Developing SPS capacity



COMESA Priorities and interventions

Key priority area:

- Fisheries management and governance
 - SSF and their regulation to address open access fishery
 - Empowerment of local administrations and social organisations
 - Improve capacities of the regional and national agencies
 - Improve fisheries statistics and economic data
- Support to value addition and trade
 - Reduce post-harvest losses – Enhance value chain, value addition, packaging
 - Diversification into domestic semi-industrial fisheries
 - Support investments and industrialization-improve access to finance

Combating IUU fishing/ Reduce incidence

- Improve control through improved cooperation and collaboration
- Improve monitoring capacity and traceability of fisheries products

Identified Key Issues, Challenges, Opportunities and Interventions



Key Issues	Challenges	Opportunities	Interventions
Inputs: Feeds Gears Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate supply of quality feeds • Limited number of local fish feed suppliers (Rwanda, Uganda) • High cost of imported feeds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing number of aquaculture producers to absorb the feeds • Local capacity to formulate quality feeds using local and regional raw materials e.g. use of BSF in Kenya and Uganda • Surveillance mechanisms to enforce and monitor the quality and standard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tailor-made value-chain financing
Fingerlings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited skills on hatcheries management • Low compliance with hatcheries licensing requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trained human resources in hatcheries management • Existing research and extension linkages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building

Identified Key Issues, Challenges, Opportunities and Interventions



Key Issues	Challenges	Opportunities	Interventions
Production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low adoption of high-yielding production technologies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existence of Recirculating Aquaculture Systems (RAS), Cages, Aquaponics and natural water resources, • Availability of fish landing and aggregation sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technology innovation demonstration centres • Progressive subsidies on aquaculture
Processing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor compliance with SPS requirements • Limited product diversification and differentiation • Inappropriate packaging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certification schemes for market access • Innovative processing and packaging technologies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity-building for all actors • Enforcement of compliance

Identified Key Issues, Challenges, Opportunities and Interventions



Key Issues	Challenges	Opportunities	Interventions
Trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competition among capture, aquaculture and imported fish • Poor fish handling practices • Lack of appropriate means of Transportation • Lack of/Inadequate Storage • Poor implementation of agreed protocols and agreements • Lack of market intelligence/information • Multiple tariffs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diverse range of species and fishery products • National policy and legal frameworks favourable for development of fisheries and aquaculture • Growing domestic and international demand for fish and fishery products • Processing of fish by-products into other useful products such as animal feeds, fertilizers, fish oil e.t.c. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digitalize and make available market • Strengthen Quality and Safety Assurance • Adopt value-based pricing • Capacity building of value chain actors • Mainstreaming of women, youth and PWDs in sustainable value chains

Identified Key Issues, Challenges, Opportunities and Interventions



Key Issues	Challenges	Opportunities	Interventions
Trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor working conditions for women • Poor infrastructure for handling fish • Low uptake of innovative fish processing technologies • Lack of access to lucrative markets by small and medium scale fish sellers • Middlemen take advantage of small-scale handlers • Ineffective distribution system of fish products • Mistrust among traders/business partners • Dwindling fish stocks due to IUU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market access opportunities arising from COMESA, EAC, AfCFTA and IGAD • Political goodwill among Member States • Fish and fish products are sources of high-value protein. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Value chain financing • Adoption of innovation, technologies and best practices • Formalisation of fish trade business and take advantage of business associations



COMESA Priorities and interventions

- COMESA has developed One Stop Boarder Posts: refers to the legal and institutional framework, facility and associated procedures that enable goods, people and vehicles to stop in a single facility in which they undergo necessary controls following applicable regional and national laws to exit one State and enter the adjoining State.
- The COMESA Cross Border Trade Initiative supported under the 11th EDF Trade Facilitation Programme (SSCBTI) is an initiative to facilitate cross border trade for small – scale traders under the COMESA Simplified Trade Regime (STR). Small Scale Cross Border Trade Initiative (SSCBT)
- One of the trade facilitation Instrument is the COMESA Green Pass, which is a certification system meant to support trade in agricultural commodities. The Green Pass is a risk-based certification system
- We are supporting to value addition and trade through Trade facilitation and RECAMP program
 - Reduce post-harvest losses – Enhance value chain, value addition, packaging
 - Diversification into domestic semi-industrial fisheries
 - Improve sanitary of products



COMESA Priorities and interventions

- COMESA is implementing the Green Pass (GP) Certification System with a pilot on dried fish (salted/smoked) in Luangwa as the source of the fish and Kasumbalesa as the uptake market of the fish. Reduce post-harvest losses
 - Equipment installed and commissioned in Luangwa District by COMESA for sampling, rapid testing, weighing and storage of the fish, to improve sanitary of products
- Regional Enterprise Competitiveness and Access to Markets Programme (RECAMP) EU supported program: Fisheries is one of the value chains
- Call for proposal was done! TAF – open for application, we received applications and we are supporting 9 programs out of which 2 is purely related to fisheries, one beef, 3 leather and leather product.

COMESA Priorities and interventions



Regional Enterprise Competitiveness and Access to Markets Programme (RECAMP):

Under Technical Assistance Facility, proposal for grant was announced and the following projects were supported and are being implemented:

1. Capacity Enhancement of Fish Traders for Effective Participation in Cross Border Trade between Kenya and Uganda through EARFISH

- **The project focus on capacity building effort involving knowledge and skills enhancement in the following areas:**
 - **Causes of fish spoilage,**
 - **Assessment and maintenance of fish quality,**
 - **Hygiene and handling fish to the landing sites and onward transportation,**
 - **Use of approved containers for fish handling,**
 - **Personal hygiene, use of potable water**
 - **Proper waste disposal**
 - **Value –addition and marketing,**
 - **Reduce Non-tariff Barrier**
 - **Access to credit/loans for fish trade,**
 - **Governance of the fish trade associations**

COMESA Priorities and interventions



Regional Enterprise Competitiveness and Access to Markets Programme (RECAMP):

2. Enhancing Competitiveness and Access to Markets of our Women MSME Entrepreneurs, Start-ups and Youth through Value addition of the Agriculture and Fisheries value chains – through COMFWB Seychelles chapter

- **The project focus on providing training in the Agriculture and Fisheries value chains of women and girls in Seychelles who most often operate at informal level, with a view of**
 - **Regularizing their businesses.**
 - **Train in technical production,**
 - **Training of SMEs on value addition and market access**
 - **Benchmarking Visits to the regional centres**
 - **Business skills and product standardisation to allow them to be competitive and access to larger local and regional markets with scaled up and standardized goods.**



COMESA Priorities and interventions

Sustainable Development of Fisheries and Aquaculture in EA-SA-IO Region under ECOFISH program in partnership with RECs, RFB”

RESULT 3: SUSTAINABLE, RESILIENT & INCLUSIVE SMALL -SCALE FISHERIES

Under call for proposals for grant the following MS benefitted:

- Improving economic resilience and food security of the artisanal fishers in the northern Sudanese Red Sea Coast- SOS Sahel Sudan
- Small-scale fisheries for sustainable Blue Growth improving food security and livelihoods in Coastal Kenya and East Africa (KECOFISH)
- Zambia Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries Programme- ZSSFP- Action Aid Zambia
- Supporting the economic empowerment of the artisanal fishing community of the Republic of Mauritius- UNDP
- Sustainable management of small-scale coastal fisheries in Northern Madagascar - Conservation Centrée sur la Communauté Madagascar (C3M)

COMESA BLUE ECONOMY



COMESA developed Blue Economy Strategy with the support of AU-IBAR through FISH-GOV 2. The BE strategy was presented during the COMESA Heads of States summit and was adopted as COMESA strategy to guide the Blue Economy of the region. The COMESA Blue economy is one of the focus under **productive integration**

COMESA's Blue Economy spans a vast domain:

The region recognizes the Blue/Ocean Economy as covering:

- Aquatic and Marine areas, including oceans, seas, coastlines, lakes, rivers and groundwater.
- It also includes many productive sectors such as :
 - Fisheries and Aquaculture,
 - Tourism,
 - Transport,
 - Shipbuilding,
 - Energy,
 - Bio-prospecting and
 - Underwater Mining to accelerate structural transformation.



COMESA Priorities and interventions

I am glad to share with you the good news that COMESA has opened the new position for Blue Economy position. The position is for regular staff, here is

the link: [Employment – Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa \(COMESA\)](#)

<http://www.comesa.int>



Partners

USAID: Enhancing livestock trade (RDOAG)-Not any more

EU/EDF-AU-IBAR: LivellAfrica and FishGOVII through AU-IBAR

EU/EDF-IOC: ECOFISH

EU/EDF: Small Scale Cross Border Trade Initiative (SSCBT)

EU/EDF: COMESA IA Regional Enterprise Competitiveness and Access to Markets Programme (RECAMP) FED/2019/407-838

FAO: Technical support / control of PPR and small ruminant respiratory diseases

OIE: Technical support/Animal health, biosecurity, food safety

RECs: All RECs as well as IOC



Thank you

<http://www.comesa.int>