Photo credit: ProSCAWA Fish Hub Ghana

Strengthening rural livelihoods in Ghana and Nigeria through small-scale cage aquaculture: The ProSCAWA project

About ProSCAWA

The goal of the Promoting Sustainable Cage Aquaculture in West Africa (ProSCAWA) project is to empower and transform the livelihoods of smallholder farmers in West Africa through enhanced Sino-Afro application of knowledge, sustainable technologies, and expertise in cage aquaculture. The project is funded by the China-IFAD South-South and Triangular Cooperation Facility and led by WorldFish, a research institute dedicated to transforming aquatic food systems.

The project objectives are to: (i) empower rural communities through sustainable cage culture; (ii) enhance employment, incomes and nutritional status of rural households through productive and sustainable cage farming in water bodies; and (iii) establish links and partnerships for improved rural entrepreneurship and livelihoods.

ProSCAWA works in collaboration with two private sector companies in Ghana and Nigeria, ProSCAWA Fish Hub and Orisha Farms, respectively, to develop the capacity of fish farmers, and businesses for sustainable cage culture farming systems in Nigeria and Ghana with a focus on enhancing employment, incomes, and nutritional status of rural households through productive and sustainable small-scale cage farming in water bodies. This is to be achieved by:

1. Supporting smallholder farmers with cage culture materials to establish demonstration sites
2. Providing Genetically Improved Farmed Tilapia (GIFT) fish seeds, nutritionally balanced feed and water quality equipment.
3. Training smallholder farmers on Best Management Practices (BMPs) on cage culture operations using the training of trainers approach.

ProSCAWA's key achievements

- Established 18 units of locally made and imported cages each in Kotorkor, Ghana, and Afowo Lagoon in Badagry, Nigeria, to promote climate-smart small-scale cage aquaculture production.
- Over 500 smallholder fish farmers trained on small-scale cage aquaculture Best Management Practices (BMPs) and business development.
- 7.3 metric tons of tilapia were produced in six months from 12 cage units at demonstration sites in Nigeria and Ghana, with the potential to produce 27.5 metric tons of tilapia in one year from 36 cage units in both countries.
- Improved rural household nutrition by increasing the availability of nutritious and affordable fish protein to local communities.
- Provided employment for seven people in the communities and indirect employment for over 100 people in cage construction, production and fish processing, helping to address high youth unemployment in the region.
- Developed an online fish marketing platform for market links and business connections.
- Fish sales from Ghana and Nigeria demonstration sites amounted to USD 16,700 in six months.

Relevant goals: SDGs

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Expected closure date	September 30, 2023

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