



FACTSHEET

Improving employment and incomes through development of Egypt's aquaculture sector (IEIDEAS)



Background

The IEIDEAS project, funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and managed by WorldFish and CARE in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, has focused on the development of the Egyptian aquaculture value chain.

In 2011, SDC and WorldFish conducted a value chain assessment. The study proved that the aquaculture industry supplied approximately 60% of the country's fish, providing affordable animal-sourced protein for Egyptian consumers, and supported at least 100,000 jobs for fish farmers, input suppliers (hatcheries and feed mills), wholesalers and retailers.

Objectives

The IEIDEAS project has focused on the following objectives:

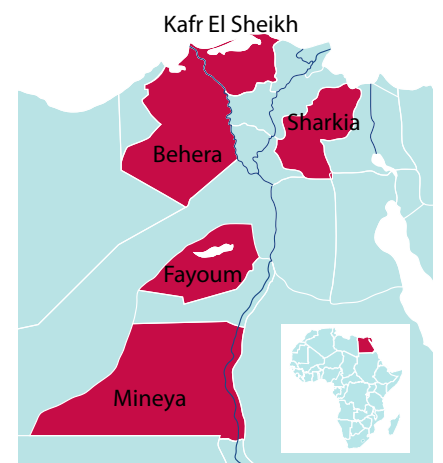
- Increase aquaculture-related employment by 10,000 jobs.
- Increase net income by \$8.8 million.
- Extend project benefits to 2,000 fish farmers, 100 wholesalers and 900 retailers.
- Maintain or enhance access to quality fish for low-income consumers.

Activities

The IEIDEAS project has conducted the following activities:

- Improved productivity and sustainability of existing fish farms in Sharkia, Kafr El Sheikh, Behera and Fayoum.
- Improved livelihoods and working conditions of women fish retailers through pilot-scale interventions in Sharkia, Kafr El Sheikh, Behera, Fayoum and El Mineya.
- Increased farmed fish production in El Mineya, including pro-poor aquaculture and reduced environmental impact systems.
- Facilitated efficient and sustainable value chains in the aquaculture sector and optimal institutional, policy and regulatory frameworks.

Egypt



Key Facts

- **Project Name:** Improving employment and incomes through development of Egypt's aquaculture sector (IEIDEAS)
- **Project duration:** 2011–2014
- **Donor:** Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
- **CGIAR Research Program:** Livestock and Fish
- **Partners:** WorldFish, CARE and Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation



Impact

Improved productivity and sustainability in existing fish farms. A faster-growing strain of tilapia, the Abbassa strain developed by WorldFish, has been provided to the aquaculture sector in conjunction with the provision of technical support for fish farmers and other actors in the value chain through best management practice training. In 2012, the Abbassa tilapia strain was given to six private-sector hatcheries which then sold brood stock to 124 hatcheries across the country. These hatcheries, will supply 2,000 fish farms with the improved strain in 2014. Also in 2012, BMP guidelines and training packages were developed in collaboration with experienced Egyptian fish farmers who are delivering training to fellow fish farmers in short field-based training sessions. Approximately 1,500 fish farmers have received training in 2013 and an additional 1,500 will be trained in 2014.

Support for women fish retailers. CARE is testing approaches to help women fish retailers improve their livelihoods. Six retailer groups have been formed. The retailers have been assisted through subsidized supply of ice boxes and transport to improve fish quality. One group in Shakshouk, Fayoum, has established a dedicated, covered market area that means they can sell their fish more quickly, as customers know where to find high-quality fish. The lessons learned from these pilot groups will be scaled up to more women retailers across the country.

Improved aquaculture in Upper Egypt. CARE also supports the development of aquaculture in the Upper Egyptian governorate of El Mineya. The project has provided technical assistance to existing fish ponds in agricultural zones and to “desert” farmers who pump ground water through irrigation tanks and ponds. In 2013, farmers with existing ponds were able to quickly increase their production.

Identification of areas for improvement in the policy environment. The project aims to improve the policy environment for aquaculture. While the industry has expanded rapidly in recent decades, it faces hurdles to future expansion. Fish farmers are restricted in where they can operate and what water they can access. Feed costs are rising while market prices are limited by the restricted purchasing power of Egyptian consumers.

While the IEIDEAS project has established that the quality of fish in ponds is high, poor post-harvest handling practices mean that fish spoil quickly, particularly in the summer when insufficient ice is used. Representation of fish farmers at the policy level is a central issue. Through the establishment of an “Innovation Platform” that brings together fish farmers, retailers, wholesalers, feed producers and representatives from regulatory authorities, ten priority policy issues have been identified and are being explored by cross-sector working groups.

“After the establishment of the market, I have more customers, as I have a fixed place where they can find me every day. Thus my sales and income have increased.”

- Rawya Monayser, fish vendor

Number of BMP training sessions in each governorate

