



Second Policy Advisory Group (PAG) Meeting:



“Food and nutrition security in the context of fisheries and HIV/AIDS in Africa”



From 15 to 18 March 2010, the Second Policy Advisory Group (PAG) Meeting took place in Cotonou, Benin, under the Regional Programme *Fisheries and HIV/AIDS in Africa: Investing in Sustainable Solutions*. This meeting brought together national and regional level partners from 12 countries across Africa, namely Benin, Cameroon, DRC, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda and Zambia. The thematic focus of the meeting was “Food and nutrition security in the context of fisheries and HIV/AIDS in Africa”.

The main objective of this PAG meeting was to identify links between fisheries, nutrition and HIV and advice on regional linkages for policy impact. The main roles of the PAG are to advise the Regional Programme on direction for expansion and dissemination of Programme results. The specific objectives of this PAG meeting were:

- To review Programme findings and identify strategic direction and steps for expansion of the Programme at regional level;
- To promote the adoption of Programme outputs and recommendations in policy forums at regional level;
- To identify potential sources of funding for expansion and identify related projects and programmes in the region where the Programme can explore linkages and synergies;

PAG members formulated the following areas of policy recommendations:

➤ <i>There is need for support to continued (long term) research and sharing of documented experiences.</i>
➤ <i>Harmonization of tools and research methodologies across and between fish corridors to achieve comparable and exchangeable data (including baselines, impact monitoring, targeting).</i>
➤ <i>Integration of food and nutrition security interface at planning and implementation stages of regional fisheries organizations, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and national development plans, to ensure that increased investment in the fisheries sector leads to improved fish production (quantity and quality) and improved access to fish by vulnerable populations.</i>
➤ <i>To develop mechanisms to ensure that post harvest processing, value addition, access to low value fish products and trade incentives are contributing to food and nutrition security of populations instead of undermining this.</i>
➤ <i>To strengthen communication and information sharing between stakeholders across levels and across sectors.</i>
➤ <i>Support to capacity building for policy makers and decision makers at all levels on the importance of food and nutrition security in the response to HIV/AIDS in the fisheries sector and beyond, and make research- and project results available and accessible to non-specialists.</i>

The PAG meeting received and commented on presentations from seven selected national partners under the Programme, presenting findings from assessments and pilot interventions under the thematic area of food and nutrition security:

Malawi	<i>Nutrition security impact of aquaculture among small-holder farmers affected by HIV/AIDS.</i>
Benin	<i>Results from the study: Food security and nutritional status in 4 districts in Benin.</i>
Mozambique	<i>Fisheries in Mozambique and links to food and nutrition security.</i>
Zambia	<i>Effects of a fish diet on the nutritional status of People Living with HIV and their response to ART, preliminary findings.</i>
Lake Chad Basin	<i>Fisheries and Integrating fishing communities of Lake Chad Basin in the national response to HIV&AIDS.</i>
Uganda	<i>Analysis of nutritive quality and post-harvest activities in 'low value' fish marketing chains in Mukono District, Lake Victoria region.</i>
DRC	<i>Analysis of the nutritional value of fish products traded at fish markets in Lubumbashi.</i>

Discussions focused on identifying key food and nutrition security trends per sub-region, as related to fisheries and HIV/AIDS. The AU/NEPAD Advisor on Food and Nutrition Security guided the meeting on the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and how responses to HIV/AIDS and nutrition insecurity in the fisheries sector fit under the CAADP Pillars.

The discussions were enriched by an outline of WorldFish Center's work on integrated agriculture aquaculture targeting households affected HIV/AIDS affected households, and a presentation on nutrition survey tools by FAO, targeting vulnerable, food insecure populations. In addition two other regional programmes presented their approach, notably the EAC / AMREF Lake Victoria Partnership and the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC).

Action points from the Second PAG meeting were formulated to take forward the recommendations at sub-regional and national levels.

The full report of the Second PAG meeting and the technical presentations will be available from the WorldFish Center Zambia office, as well as from the Programme website:

www.worldfishcenter.org/wfcms/SF0959SID

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