



The WorldFish Center

# WHO WE ARE WHAT WE DO AND WHY



Photo by: Dominyk Lever

*Reducing poverty and hunger by improving fisheries and aquaculture*

## WHO WE ARE

WorldFish is an international, non-profit, non-governmental organization with a mission to *reduce poverty and hunger by improving fisheries and aquaculture*.

We work in partnership with a wide range of government and non-governmental agencies at regional, national and local levels in the developing world, and with advanced research institutions worldwide.

With support from the Rockefeller Foundation we began in 1977 as the International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management (ICLARM) based in The Philippines. In 2000 we shortened our name to The WorldFish Center and set up our new headquarters in Penang, Malaysia.

We have 250 staff members, including 50 Ph.D. scientists based in twelve countries across Asia, Africa and the Pacific<sup>1</sup>. From these bases, we work in more than 25 countries with more than 200 partners representing 50 countries.

We're one of 15 centers supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), a group of investors that include governments, development banks, philanthropic organizations and development institutions. Our annual budget is about US\$20 million.

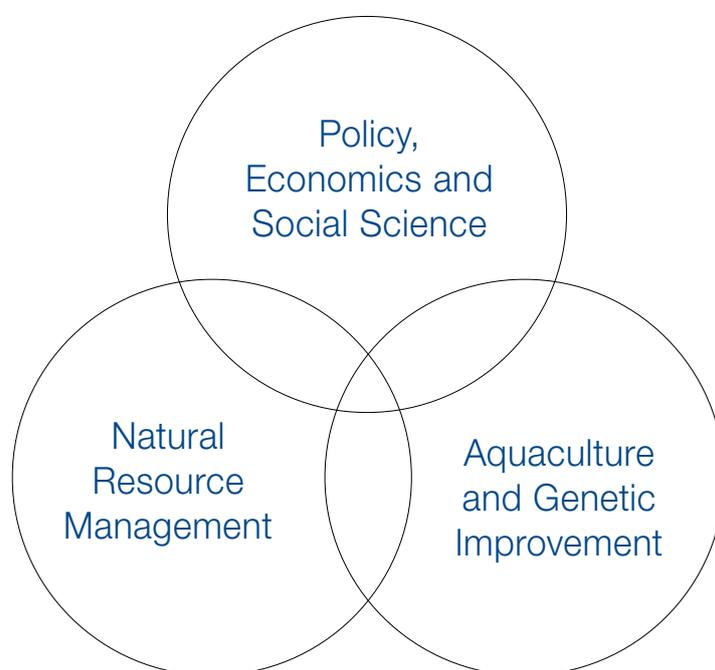
## WHAT WE DO

With our partners, we carry out research-for-development to improve small-scale fisheries and aquaculture. Our key competencies are in Policy Economics and Social Sciences, Natural Resource Management, and Aquaculture and Genetic Improvement. This inter-linked set of disciplines work together to provide a wide range of research and analysis, some of which are summarized in the diagram, next page.

<sup>1</sup> We currently have regional or country offices in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Cameroon, China, The Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Malawi, Malaysia (HQ), New Caledonia, The Philippines, Solomon Islands, and Zambia.

# WORLDFISH KEY COMPETENCIES

The key competencies of WorldFish work together as an inter-linked set of disciplines to provide a wide range of research and analysis.



## Natural Resource Management

- Bio-physical analyses to improve and support integrated assessment and management of small-scale fisheries
- Design and management of global information systems on aquatic resources (FishBase, ReefBase)
- Post-disaster livelihood recovery in fisheries-dependent regions
- Bio-physical analysis of the impacts of built structures (e.g. dams) on aquatic resources in river basins
- Analysis of external drivers such as climate change on livelihoods of fishery-dependent households

## Policy, Economics and Social Science

- Strategic social and economic analyses to identify how fisheries and aquaculture can best contribute to poverty reduction at local to global scales
- Policy and institutional analyses to improve small-scale fisheries management and the broader issues of governance of aquatic resources
- Social analyses of the relationships between human health and fisheries to identify the best ways to increase benefits to health-impaired populations (through HIV/AIDS and malaria) and reduce health risks among fishers and fish farmers
- Market analyses to connect small-scale producers to markets

## Aquaculture and Genetic Improvement

- Developing methods for breeding improved fish strains for aquaculture
- Identifying and adapting aquaculture technologies for the poor, including women and the landless
- Integrating aquaculture with terrestrial small-scale agriculture
- Developing strategies, options and action plans for aquaculture production at regional and national level
- Identifying and adapting technologies that improve water productivity while protecting environmental goods and services

## HOW WE WORK

Our work uncovers basic principles that have international utility and, as a result produce global impacts, with high returns on investment. Such knowledge, technologies, methods and tools, made freely available to all, are referred to as “international public goods.”

We apply our expertise in ways that build human and institutional capacities at all levels within partner agencies, for example by helping networks, advising partners on institutional development, training, and learn-by-doing research partnerships.

To achieve this we work closely with partners, and build connections between the developing and developed worlds.

We organize our work geographically into six regional portfolios:

- Pacific
- East & Southeast Asia

- South Asia
- Greater Mekong
- Southern and Eastern Africa
- West and Central Africa

Three communities of practice nurture our scientific capacities: Policy, Economics, and Social Sciences; Natural Resource Management; and Aquaculture and Genetic Improvement.

## OUR VISION

Our focus is on two interlinked agendas, one to ensure productive and resilient small-scale fisheries, the other to expand sustainable aquaculture. Our vision is to be the science partner of choice for delivering on those agendas and creating a future for fisheries and aquaculture that, when achieved, will improve the lives of millions.

## WORLD FISH FOCUS

WorldFish focuses and aims to deliver on two interlinked agendas that will improve the lives of millions

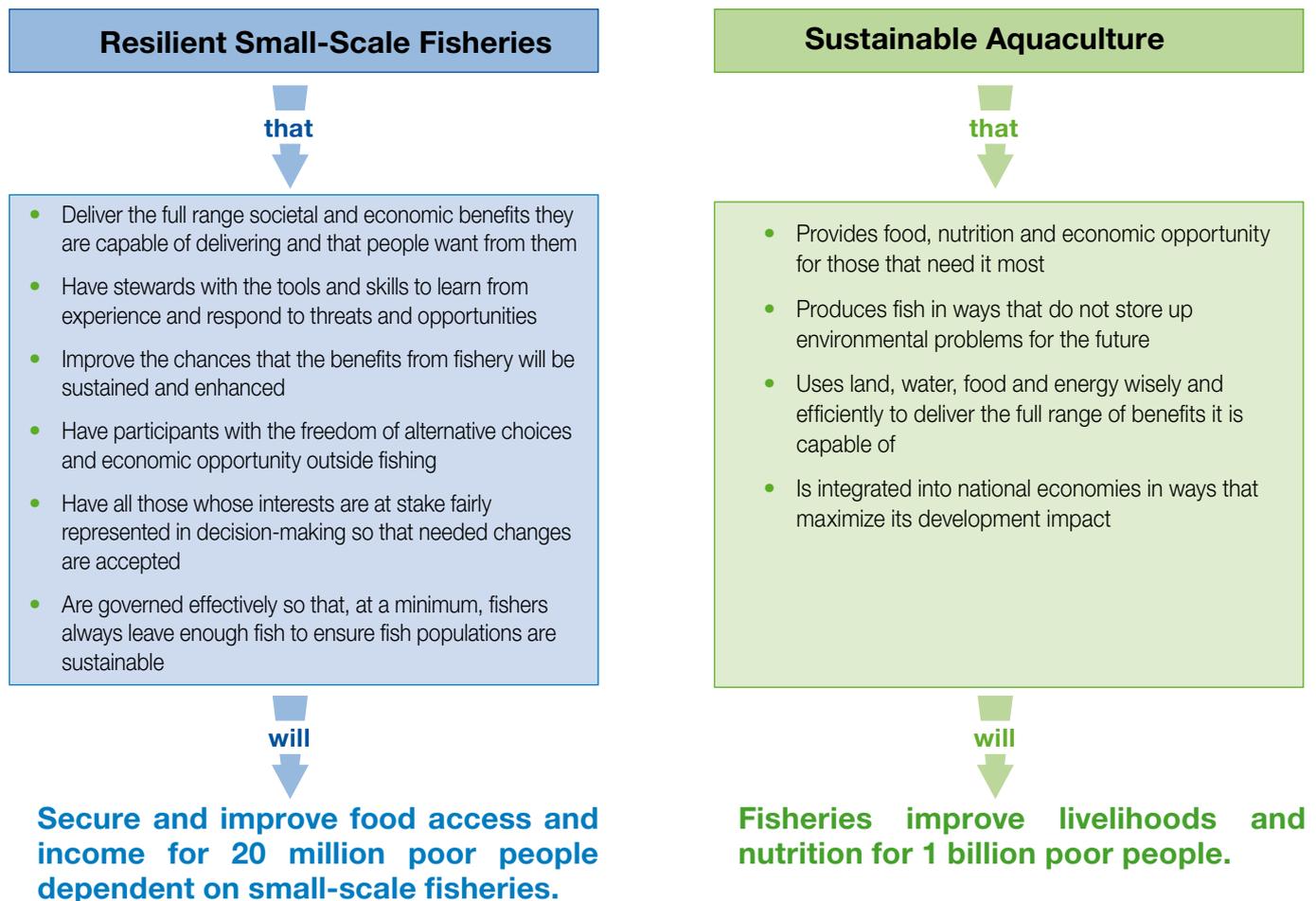




Photo by: Randall Brummett

*Expanding sustainable aquaculture*

## OUR WORK

### A BIG PICTURE APPROACH

We take a comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach because the problems fisheries and aquaculture face are complex and multi-faceted. There are many linkages and inter-dependencies and many points of entry. Failure to embrace this complexity has led to piecemeal efforts in the past and undue faith in single technological or development approaches – magic bullets. And research alone is not enough – we also catalyze partnerships that give the poor access to credit, inputs, markets, institutions and other essential ingredients for transforming their lives.

### WHAT MAKES US SPECIAL?

Our vision is to be the science partner of choice for delivering fisheries and aquaculture solutions for developing countries. Realizing that vision requires us to be different in significant ways from others – without such strong differentiation there is no reason to choose WorldFish as a partner. Specifically, we offer a unique combination of attributes:

- We can provide pro-poor technologies and tools in areas that others do not focus on
- We can add greater value to our partners' efforts through our capacity to synthesize and integrate knowledge at global and regional levels
- We can more effectively help develop and implement the research for development agenda through the

convening power that our partner network and international status provides

- We can better focus research to the poverty and hunger reduction agenda due to the complete alignment of these goals with our mission

Along with this unique combination of attributes, one of the most important measures of our difference is the way we work – how we translate our values into practice. We strive to be:

- innovative and dynamic in anticipating new challenges and responses
- adaptive in learning from our own experience and that of our partners
- responsive and efficient in delivering on our commitments
- trusted and transparent in our dealings and independent in addressing sensitive issues on the basis of science
- nimble enough to seize new opportunities quickly

### THE CGIAR ADVANTAGE

Through partnerships with our fourteen sister CGIAR centers, we draw in a wide range of world-class capabilities. Example include collaboration on water issues (IWMI), policy and governance (IFPRI), farming systems and crops in different environments and regions (CIMMYT, CIP, ICARDA, ICRAF, ICRISAT, IITA, IRRI, WARDA), biodiversity (Bioversity International), livestock (ILRI) and forests (CIFOR).

## PRODUCTS WE DELIVER

We deliver science-based services and solutions (knowledge, expertise, methods, tools, technologies) in aquaculture and fisheries management that help solve poverty, hunger and environmental degradation across Africa, Asia and the South Pacific. As an international public institution, we deliver these in the form of “international public goods” that we make freely available to all. Economic analysis has shown that, taken as a whole, every 100 dollars invested in The WorldFish Center yields 134 dollars in benefits to the poor per year.

## WE WORK AS A BROKER, BRIDGE AND CATALYST

We help convert scientific promise into practice by building value chains. Advanced research institutions such as universities make new fisheries-related scientific discoveries. We study their findings, identify those that could potentially benefit the poor, and synthesize and share knowledge about them. At the same time we build research-for-development partnerships that transform those bright ideas into useful goods and services to benefit the poor worldwide.

## WE ARE ACCOUNTABLE

We hold ourselves accountable through external reviews conducted by project investors, and are accountable to our governing Board and the CGIAR System’s Executive and Science Councils. Our Board of Trustees, an independent governing body composed of eight distinguished leaders from both the developing and developed world, provides direct oversight.

A Science Advisory Committee, comprised of six eminent experts in the areas of policy, economics, and social sciences; natural resource management; and aquaculture and genetic improvement, guides our science agenda.

## OUR VALUES

The following values define our personality and help us measure the appropriateness of our decisions:

- Our two most fundamental values are **integrity** and **trust**. We trust one another to be honest and open, and hold ourselves accountable for honoring that trust
- In the workplace, we strive for **fairness**. We provide equal opportunities for all staff, recognize achievement, celebrate diversity and respect individual dignity. We strive to practice effective leadership at all levels and empower staff so they can give their best
- In our work, we search for **excellence** in all that we do. We continually seek to improve the quality and efficiency of our products and services, and accept the need for risk-taking and genuine mistakes as opportunities for learning



- We also value **teamwork** over individual effort, sharing knowledge among ourselves and our partners to build on our collective strengths and interdependencies

## OUR SUPPORTERS

Our work has only been possible because of the money provided by socially conscious investor institutions; and the people, knowledge, and infrastructural contributions from partners.

Our core support comes from CGIAR member institutions, which includes more than 60 government, development bank, philanthropic and private-sector agencies around the world. These members and others beyond the CGIAR, including philanthropic organizations and individuals, support special projects focused on particular regions or topics that aim for impact in the short to near-term (usually about 3-6 years).

We welcome inquires from investors and partners who want to join our quest to apply fisheries and aquaculture science to build a better, more sustainable future for the poor and the hungry.



Photo by: FemCom

*Building resilient and productive small-scale fisheries*

## EXCELLENCE IN ACTION: THE WORLD TAKES NOTICE OF WORLDFISH

### WORLD FOOD PRIZE

The WorldFish Center's Dr. Modadugu V. Gupta earned the world's highest honor in agriculture in 2005 for developing aquaculture systems that the poor could adopt using local natural resources. Over a million poor families in south and southeast Asia have benefited.

### WORLD BANK'S WORLD DEVELOPMENT MARKETPLACE AWARD

Also in 2005, WorldFish's "Sustainable Use of African Rainforest Rivers" project won this prestigious prize for innovation;

one of only nine winners out of 2,600 nominations from 136 countries. The initiative helps women in central Africa benefit from the sustainable cultivation and harvest of high-value ornamental fish, increasing local earnings by at least 500 percent.

### CGIAR OUTSTANDING PARTNERSHIPS AWARD

WorldFish was praised by the CGIAR for building bridges between the Bangladesh Department of Fisheries, eleven NGOs and private organizations, and more than 23,000 rural households. This work helped poor communities to develop integrated agriculture-aquaculture systems that improve nutrition, welfare and economic opportunity for the poor, especially for women.

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## LEARN MORE ABOUT WORLDFISH

Visit our website at [www.worldfishcenter.org](http://www.worldfishcenter.org)

To learn about the CGIAR visit [www.cgiar.org](http://www.cgiar.org)

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