

What Stakeholders Need...

Past successes in the region shows that Aquaculture has the potential to not only become a major foreign exchange earner, but can also and reduce the cost of and the volume of fish products imported from other parts of the world.

The industry however must operate in an atmosphere where there is appropriate frameworks and incentives that will allow farmers to produce in a competitive environment.

The sector is urgently in need of :

- ◆ Increased investments,
- ◆ Improvements and technological innovation in breeding and genetics,
- ◆ Improvements in disease control and nutrition,
- ◆ Implementation of planning and zoning guidelines,
- ◆ Development of incentives to increase production and earnings,
- ◆ The strengthening of governance frameworks to level the playing field for regional producers,
- ◆ Strengthening of aquaculture extension and support services for farmers,
- ◆ Reducing the cost of electricity, water and land for aquaculture,
- ◆ The provision of low cost financing to support the industry,
- ◆ Assistance with access to regional and international markets,
- ◆ The development of efficient and effective food safety systems
- ◆ Diversification of systems used and species farmed in the sector.



ABOUT THE CRFM

The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) was officially inaugurated on 27 March 2003, in Belize City, Belize, where it is headquartered.

The CRFM was established following the signing of the "Agreement Establishing the CRFM" on February 4, 2002 and is an inter-governmental organization.

The CRFM's mission is to "To promote and facilitate the responsible utilization of the region's fisheries and other aquatic resources for the economic and social benefits of the current and future population of the region".



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'Facilitating the sustainable use of regional fisheries.'



What You Need to Know About Aquaculture!

Aquaculture has the potential to increase employment and earnings in the CCRFM member states

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) states that aquaculture is perhaps the fastest growing food sector, currently providing close to 50 percent of world food fish.

FAO states further, that the growth of Aquaculture world-wide, from three million tonnes in the 1970s to 66.63 million tonnes in 2012 will see the sector overtake wild capture fishery, providing as much as two-thirds of world fish production by 2030.



Farmed fish

Caribbean aquaculture production currently accounts for just about two percent of global production. Regional production has not grown in the last 10 years, falling from just over 11,000 tonnes in 2001 to just over 7,700 tonnes in 2011. Falling production is due to a number of reasons, many of which are related to the absence of extension services and policies that support the sector.

Given the global boom in production, the **Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM)** has identified Aquaculture as one sector with the potential to stimulate economic and social development across the region.

The FAO states that approximately 567 aquatic species are being farmed earning an estimated US\$138 billion at farm gateprices. Production of Tilapia, Carp and Catfish are expected to double by 2030.

The sub-sector also employs an estimated 23 million people worldwide, 16 million directly and 6.5 million indirectly- about 10 to 12 percent of the world's population .

Economic Possibilities

These figures indicate that Aquaculture can provide much needed employment in traditional fishing and farming areas of the region.

A state-of-the-industry study carried out by the CRFM identified constraints and the potential of Aquaculture in the region.

Peak production of 18,879 tonnes in 2004 due to the activities of a handful of countries in the region, growing a few aquatic species. Today, there are some 13 CRFM member countries involved in some type of aquaculture production, the largest being Belize, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Haiti and Suriname .

Other producing countries are Dominica, Trinidad and Tobago, the Bahamas, St. Lucia, Barbados, Grenada and St Kitts/Nevis. The addition of Haiti and other countries to the pool of Aquaculture producing nations of the region is expected to increase production significantly.

The Caribbean produces mainly marine shrimp, tilapia, colossoma (pacu) oysters, carp, some freshwater shrimp as well as several aquarium species. Other species include the Cobia, Pompano, the Dolphinfish and the Red Drum.



Ponds drained, workers reap the remaining fish

CRFM is working..

The CRFM Secretariat has worked with several donor partners as it promotes Aquaculture as the way forward for the region's fishing industry.

The following has been completed:

- ◆ An assessment of the potential for aquaculture in Haiti,
- ◆ Review options to increase production in a climate with the legal framework, policies and that support investors, farmers and the workers.
- ◆ A development plan for land and water use in Jamaica
- ◆ A strategy for the development of aquaculture for St. Kitts and Nevis
- ◆ The development of a fisheries and aquaculture policy for Dominica, Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines and
- ◆ Support for the formulation of a fisheries and aquaculture policy for the Dominican Republic.

Further, in 2012 CRFM member states established a Working Group on Aquaculture made up of stakeholders and representatives of member countries to:

- ◆ Intensify efforts to increase production,
- ◆ Create a strategy to increase the supply of farmed fish,
- ◆ Adopt an eco-system approach to aquaculture,
- ◆ Establish regional working group to develop policies and guidelines
- ◆ Enable policies and legal frameworks and
- ◆ Establish guidelines, standards and best practice standards.