



International Association of Fish Inspectors

"an International Association of Seafood Professionals"

IAFI African Network Meeting

World Seafood Congress
Washington DC, October 2nd 2011

Participants: (annex)

1. The fifth African Network for Fish Technology and Safety Workshop was held on 2nd October at the Omni Shoreham Hotel Washington. This was a follow up meeting for the Members of the Network after the successful Agadir, Morocco in 2009.
2. The Workshop was attended by 27 participants from different countries and international organization, including 10 African Countries i.e. Angola (1), Mozambique (3), South Africa (3), Tanzania (1), Seychelles (1), Tunisia (1), Morocco (2), Gambia (1) and Namibia (1). Others came from IAFI, FAO (4), SARNISS, USA, Australia, UK, Portugal, India, Austria and Italy. Most of the African participants were sponsored by FAO with the exception of participants from South Africa who were privately sponsored.
3. **The main sessions of the Workshop were as follows:**
 - i. Official Opening (Dr. Lahsen Ababouch-FAO)
 - ii. Opening session: From Agadir 2009 to Washington, DC 2011, presented on "From Agadir 2009 to Washington DC, What progress within the African Network/ANFTS and way forward" (Dr. Yvette Diei Ouadi-FAO)
 - iii. Session 1: Lesson learnt from export requirement compliance efforts over the past 15 years in Africa (Chaired by Dr. Yvette Diei Ouadi-FAO)
 - iv. Session 2: Food Safety Challenges (Chaired by Hosea Gonza Mbilinyi-Tanzania)

4. Opening Remarks- Prof. Lahsen Ababouch

In his opening remark, he welcomed the participants to the African Day workshop. He underscored the importance of holding the African Day where specific regional and global issues are discussed; experts exchange ideas and experiences as well as decide on how we take forward African views in the coming two years. He emphasised on the need of promoting and investing in aquaculture which, of course, require both Political will and commitment by all stakeholders. He was optimistic that the new FAO Directors (Dr. Arni Mattiesen-new ADG of FI at FAO and Dr. Graciano Da Silva, the new FAO DG) will put more emphasis on fisheries and aquaculture specifically on management, marketing, safety and quality aspects. He looked forward towards interactive, fruitful and successful deliberations.

5. Presentations

A total of 11 presentations were made according to the respective subject matter as here under summarized on the following pages:



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Opening Session- African Network

- i) Dr. Yvette presented on "From Agadir 2009 to Washington DC, What progress within the African Network (ANFTS and Way forward). She provided a Historical background and initiatives taken to establish an African Network for Fish Technologists and Scientists (ANFTS). The Network is intended to be a platform for exchange of ideas, experiences, dissemination of up to date information and scientific outputs, interventions and promoting harmony among members. She indicated that the process of establishing the Network has faced some problems and challenges that had dragged back the progress to establish the network. The progress so far made is the development of a Logo and active communications and interactions among members than ever specifically after the Agadir, Morocco meeting where many African participants attended. The communication spirit has been going down and currently, information flow and communication is among experts at sub regional level and not as anticipated and agreed in Agadir. Language barrier is one among the important s because any information to be effectively shared has to be translated to 4 Languages i.e. English, Arabic, Portuguese and French. She further indicated that it has been difficult to establish a website for the Network given the non enabling context (the Fish Info network led by INFOPECHE is no longer as strong as it used to be) and requested the participants to discuss and agree on the way forward.
- ii) Pro. Mike Dillon (IAFI President) presented on IAFI-New Vision and future activities as a contribution to the challenges faced by African Experts to establishing the African Fish Technologists and Scientists Network. He indicated that IAFI is currently working on trying to activate a World Network comprised of Networks from all the five continents. IAFI act as a HUB to link up the international networks, receive information, foster interactions and disseminate both academic and research knowledge. He emphasised the need to establish a strong African network like the South American one through which experts and institutions can share best practices, employ common approaches and share materials, distribute practical skills and knowledge on Seafood species. He indicated that IAFI is ready to support the African initiative and make the African dream of establishing the network a reality.

Agreed actions:

1. Functional Website:

-Look for an institution that can agree to host and manage the Website

-Update the list of Institutions (Academic and Research) involved with issues related to Fisheries, Safety and quality, research on product development and training and request one to host the ANFST website

For these 2 above bullet points, Michael Young/South Africa, Christopher Hoareau/Seychelles and Gonza Mbilinyi/Tanzania were nominated and volunteered to ensure follow up and get back to FAO

-Get the Network's National and Regional Focal points active and where necessary, nominate new, younger and more active ones.



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-Utilizing the Seychelles Fish Technologists meeting in November 2011 as a forum to re-energise, renewal of commitments and practical steps towards the establishment of an active ANFST Network.

-Forge a linkage with IAFI and other simple and cheap operational internet providers of information on fisheries, trade, quality issues, for example Fishlite, a news letter produced by Megapesca.

2. Increase the responsiveness among ANFST experts in sharing information, challenges faced and technological innovations despite the language barrier.
3. Lobbying African Governments, through the focal points to raise more interests and support to the ANFST Network
4. Sustainability of ANFST funding be given a priority including designing programmes to source for funds and Members contributions



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Session 2: Lesson learnt from export requirement compliance efforts over the past 15 years in Africa (Chaired by Dr. Yvette Diei Ouadi-FAO)

Five presentations were made by representatives of five African countries as follows:

- i) Private Sector view on export conformance requirements and lessons learnt-South African perspective (Donovan Brickles-South Africa)
- ii) Tanzania experience on the journey towards compliance for export to International Markets (Hosea Gonza Mbilinyi-Tanzania)
- iii) Small vessels to frozen products-Mozambican experience about the 1990's EU ban (Ms. Luisa Arthur-Mozambique)
- iv) Compliance for export of Bivalves from the Mediterranean Tunisia (Ben Jennet-Tunisia)
- v) General information on fisheries activities in Angola including fishing, fish inspection and marketing (Ms. Maria Filomena da Mata-Angola)

The presentations provided a light on the experiences that the respective countries have gone through in their journeys towards compliance to international standards and market requirements. All highlighted the challenges for the developing countries coping up with the ever changing international standards and markets requirements in particular the EU Legislations. All in all, it was unanimously agreed that in the long run, the FVO inspection Missions and bans experienced by certain countries on specific fisheries, have had positive impacts in terms of improvement of the CA structures, fisheries infrastructures, knowledge to stakeholders, and industries compliance. Country specific issues were mentioned but generally all countries seem to face the same experiences. The issues of improving the upstream part of the sectors and especially the small-scale fishing communities (main raw material suppliers) was discussed and observation was made that current control regime is vertical and concentrates much on products for export but not for local consumption. Rapid changes or improvements have occurred where there has been more political will, commitment and support. All countries acknowledged the support by donor agencies and organisations for the continuous improvements made over the years.

Agreed Actions:

- i) There is a need to put more emphasis on upgrading the fish handling and preservation infrastructures upstream of the fisheries sector. Use Governments funds, donor funds and contributions by Fish business facilities to develop and improve fish landing sites
- ii) There is a need to build a linkage between Fish Processing industries and communities to ensure that some money generated from exports is ploughed back to ensure communities sustainable livelihoods and services. This will build trust between the industries and the communities;
- iii) ANFST Members exchange experiences with regard to the fight against IUU fishing;
- iv) The inspection regimes needs a major overhaul to both vertical and horizontal to ensure that quality and safety of fisheries products both for local and international markets is monitored and controlled with no double standard



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Session 3: Food Safety Challenges (Chaired by Mr Hosea Gonza Mbilinyi)

Four presentations were made by participants from four (4) African countries as follows:

- i) Food safety challenges in aquaculture and prospects regarding aquaculture development in Africa (Fish diseases and fish quality) (Dr. Iddya Karunasagar-FAO)
- ii) Integration of food safety controls across commodity groups, to emphasize links to SPS agreement (Michael Young-South Africa))
- iii) An assessment of mercury level in Swordfish caught in the Western Indian Ocean (Christopher Hoareau-Seychelles)
- iv) Namibian experience regarding IUU fishing (Eino Mvula-Namibia)

During this session, the importance of aquaculture in Africa was emphasised as being economic activities and for food security. Monitoring and control of Safety of aquaculture products in Africa as well as diseases was highly emphasised specifically with respect to transportation of brood stocks and aquatic animals from one country to another or within a country. Examples were provided where contaminated brood stocks were transported to African countries which led to transfer of new diseases to the recipient country. Emphasis was put on importance to have in place aquaculture diseases diagnosis services as well as mechanisms to regulate the use of antimicrobial drugs in aquaculture; and that, Stakeholders must be given awareness specifically on use of antimicrobial drugs against bacterial and not for control of viral diseases. Furthermore, ensuring fishery products safety for human consumption was indicated to be a major challenge specifically with regard to chemical contaminants such a Methyl mercury versus the respective fish sizes. A presentation on Codex standards, WTO TBT and SPS agreements and links to food safety controls provided a light on relevant links and the importance of the SPS agreement to food safety.

Agreed Actions:

- i) Integration of Control Systems across different species specifically for aquaculture. Use of existing experts in Africa to handle problems in developing aquaculture through networking was emphasised;
- ii) Commission re-evaluation of mercury levels in marine fish based on new scientific knowledge being acquired on the relationship between selenium and mercury absorption in consumers.
- iii) Lessoned learnt by successful countries in combating IUU such as Namibia and Morocco be shared with other African countries through the ANFS Network; snag



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Annex: Participant List

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