



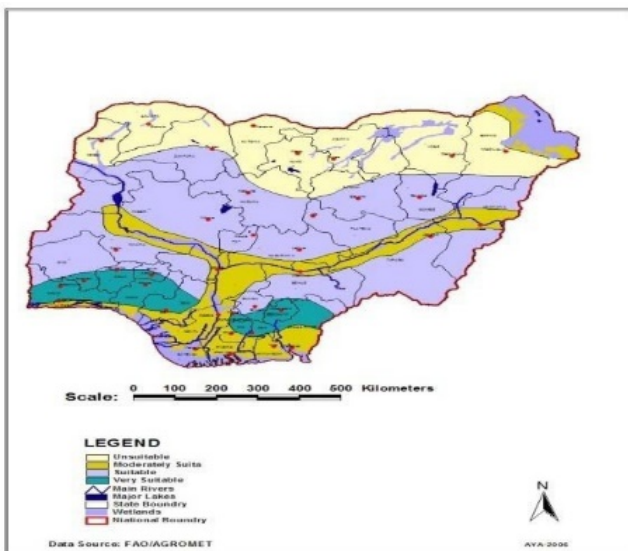
Aquaculture in Nigeria Fact Sheet

2019

Overview

Fish is a staple food for many Nigerians. Fish consumption accounts for over 40% of the protein sources consumed in the country¹. The consumption of fish has shown an upward growth trend with an annual consumption of about 3.2 million metric tons, of which 2.1 million metric tons are imported each year. However, since the beginning of the Millennium Nigeria has seen the aquaculture subsector experience growth and development. Nigeria now ranks amongst Africa's largest producers of fish², only second to Egypt, whose aquaculture products have Nigeria as its main African market destination.

The Nigerian government is very eager to reduce the nation's import bills, and has directed fish importers to implement backward integration into commercial aquaculture. This has increased investment into aquaculture since 2016. The most cultured fishes are catfish and tilapia, but the country has the environment to support the farming of other tropical species in both fresh and marine water environments. Currently, a few Dutch private sector SMEs and multinationals are very active in the aquaculture value chain (fish seeds and seed production technology, fish production and RAS technology and fish feeds).



Facts and Figures

- Nigeria has a population of approximately 187 million people and is projected to reach 264 million people in 2030, making it the fifth most populous nation in the world.
- Nigeria is a major oil producer, but the service and agriculture industry accounts for over 70% of Nigeria's GDP.
- Nigeria has very good conditions for tropical fresh and marine fish culture, the country has quality surface and ground water sources with climatology suited for year-round production.

- Nigeria owns significant coastline of 853 km and over 14 million hectares of inland waters with 75% being moderately suitable and about 112,085 Km² assessed as very suitable for aquaculture production³.
- Aquaculture thrives in most regions of Nigeria but the most active regions are the Southwest, South, Southeast and the North central.
- Local businesses have developed a strong distribution value chain, allowing SMEs to deliver live or frozen catfish and tilapia products to their destinations. Over 30% of Nigeria forms a suitable market.
- The total fish demand for Nigeria based on the 2014 population estimate of 180m was 3.32m Mt.
- The domestic fish production from Aquaculture, Artisanal and Industrial fisheries for 2014 was 1.123m Mt.
- Also in 2014, fisheries contributed 0.48% to the Agriculture GDP and contribution of Agriculture to GDP (2014) was 20.24%.
- Nigeria has been ranked 68th within the group of 160 countries in terms of fish consumption per capita, 19 places above the position seen 10 years before 2014.
- Fish consumption per capita reached 13.3 kg in 2017 in Nigeria, according to FAOSTAT, below to the world's average of 20.5 kg in 2017.

¹ <https://www.worldfishcenter.org/country-pages/nigeria>

² <http://www.fao.org/in-action/globefish/fishery-information/resource-detail/en/c/338418/>

³ <https://fmard.gov.ng/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/National-Aquaculture-Strategy-for-Nigeria.pdf>

Challenges

- Limited technical & business management support systems;
- Ineffective data collection and management systems;
- Poor organization and trust amongst aquaculture value chain players;
- No internationally accredited farms;
- EU and US restrictions on Nigerian smoked catfish export;
- Lack of accredited facilities for promoting fish export e.g limited ISO certified labs for residue monitoring;
- Limited knowledge and technology for fish production resulting into low production efficiencies and profitability;
- High cost of quality inputs like feeds, seeds and equipment's;
- Limited knowledge and technology readily available in the country for other aquaculture species other than catfish and tilapia.

Opportunities

- Nigerians already have a high preference for affordable fish protein.
- Fast growing population projected to reach over 250 million in 2030.
- Growing economy with an average GDP growth rate of over 2% and per capita GDP of \$2388 projected to approach \$3000 in 2023.
- Aquaculture will improve the situation of youth employment and migration.
- Strong need for affordable technology, knowledge and inputs that could improve the sustainability of the aquaculture industry.
- Good number of aquaculture enterprises are demanding efficiency enhancement solutions in the aspect of seeds, feeds, veterinary inputs, logistics and production facilities.
- Government of Nigeria is focused on using agriculture to diversify economy where aquaculture is also considered a major aspect for youth involvement.

Embassy

The embassy has actively supported not less than two Dutch companies with their successful establishment in Nigeria through a backward integration system and today they are amongst the leading aquaculture businesses in Nigeria. The embassy team is also here to support your foreign trade and investment ambitions for both companies already in Nigeria and new prospects.

The embassy's team is happy to work with you to review your external as well as internal analysis, marketing and sales plans. We support companies interested in Nigeria through partner scans, trade missions and networking events. We also provide subsidies advisory services.

Contact us today!

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