



# REPORT BACK FROM THE AQUACULTURE FISHERIES (INLAND AND MARINE) COMMISSION

27 March 2024

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# CHALLENGES

1. *Training and Capacity Building*
2. *Fragmented legislation that does not foster development*
3. *Meaningful community engagement and empowerment*
4. *Research and data collection*
5. *Market Access and Value Addition (beneficiation)*
6. *Partnerships with the Private Sector*
7. *Underutilisation of public water bodies*
8. *Unclear/ unknown “dos and don’ts” when it comes to farming of fish*
9. *Infrastructure support for small-scale and SMME fishers*
10. *Clear definition of Fisheries sub-sectors (aquaculture, small-scale and full commercial)*

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# SOLUTIONS

Challenge	Proposed Solution
<b>1. Training and Capacity Building</b>	Provide training, education and mentorship programs to aquaculture sector, inland and small-scale fishers (SMMEs).
<b>2. Fragmented legislation that does not foster development</b>	The need for <b>collaborative Governance and Partnerships</b> between government agencies, local communities, NGOs, academia, and other stakeholders. Explore use of technology to increase efficiency in application and licencing processes. Furthermore, reform aquaculture legislation and inland fisheries.
<b>3. Meaningful community engagement and empowerment</b>	The increased need to involve local communities in decision-making processes regarding freshwater and marine resource management. We need to empower fishers with knowledge about sustainable fishing practices, resource management techniques, and the importance of biodiversity conservation.



# SOLUTIONS

Challenge	Proposed Solution
<b>4. Research and data collection</b>	Establish proper monitoring programs to track changes in resource status over time and ensure sustainable utilisation. Involve local fishers in data collection and monitoring.
<b>5. Market Access and Value Addition (Beneficiation)</b>	Support aquaculture and the small-scale fishers in accessing markets for their products. Encourage the development of local processing facilities.
<b>6. Partnerships with the Private Sector</b>	Collaborate with private sector entities, including seafood companies, retailers, and distributors, to create market demand for sustainably sourced seafood products. Foster partnerships that provide access to markets, technology, and investment capital for small-scale fishers and aquaculture.



# SOLUTIONS

Challenge	Proposed Solution
<p><b>7. Under-utilisation of freshwater bodies</b></p>	<p>Establishment of state-owned fish hatcheries and subsequent evaluation and restocking of public waterbodies with indigenous fish species for enhancement of biodiversity and utilisation by inland fishing communities.</p>
<p><b>8. Unclear/ unknown “dos and don’ts” when it comes to farming of fish</b></p>	<p>Critical need to map waterbodies to facilitate easy decision-making by prospective farmers in line with laws regulating fish farming activities depending on the –sensitivity of various regions and aquatic systems.</p>
<p><b>9. Infrastructure support for small-scale and SMME fishers</b></p>	<p>Assistance with finance and development of bankable business plans.</p>
<p><b>10. Clear definition of fisheries sub-sectors (aquaculture, small-scale and full commercial)</b></p>	<p>Development of a a portal that would assist with information management, investment facilitation, etc.</p>



# THE WAY FORWARD

Financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identification of current funding resources and facilitate access for fish farmers and fishers.</li><li>• Development of a funding guide for the relevant funding institutions to support aquaculture and fisheries.</li></ul>
Training and capacity building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conduct skills audit for the aquaculture and fisheries sector and ensure relevant interventions are implemented.</li><li>• Facilitated mentorship programmes for existing and prospective fish farmers and fishers.</li></ul>
Scientific support, data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conduct targeted research that will address the needs of the small-scale fishers, aquaculture and inland fishers.</li><li>• Ensure adequate monitoring and data collection to ensure that resources remain sustainable.</li></ul>
One stop shop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Investigate the 'one stop shop' model and implement in the fisheries and aquaculture space</li></ul>
Regulatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conduct legislative review for fisheries, aquaculture and inland fisheries.</li><li>• Clear definition of aquaculture sector (small-scale and commercial)</li></ul>
Communication and Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Create awareness programs targeting the entire value chain and educational programs</li></ul>
Market Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Encourage the development of local processing facilities.</li></ul>

# PROGRAMME OF ACTION BY CD:BESU

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# DRAFT PROGRAMME OF ACTION

Action Description	Expected Outcome	Link to NBES Goals/Actions	Time frame	Responsibility
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				

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