



AVCRT NEWSLETTER 1 OF 2017

Progress report towards implementation of Operation Phakisa projects

At a recent AVCRT meeting held on 25 July 2017 in Cape Town, a presentation was made on the progress regarding Operation Phakisa initiatives. The presentation focussed on the following eight initiatives:

- Initiative 1: Implementation of catalyst projects;
- Initiative 2: Legislative reform to promote aquaculture development;
- Initiative 3: Interdepartmental Authorisations Committee;
- Initiative 4: Establishment of a globally recognised monitoring mechanism;
- Initiative 5: Aquaculture Development Fund;
- Initiative 6: Capacity building and skills development;
- Initiative 7: Coordination of industry wide marketing efforts; and
- Initiative 8: Preferential procurement of aquaculture products.

The detailed progress reports are available through the Operation Phakisa Two Year Review link: <http://www.daff.gov.za/daffweb3/Branches/Fisheries-Management/Aquaculture-and-Economic-Development/Operation-Phakisa>

Aquaculture Development Bill

Engagements on the Bill at the National Economic Development and Labour Council (NEDLAC) were finalized on the 23rd of June 2017 and the NEDLAC report was compiled and signed off at the NEDLAC chamber meeting held on 18 July 2017 to conclude the NEDLAC process. The draft Bill incorporating input from social partners at NEDLAC and input received from the Office of Chief State Law Advisor (OCSLA) was resubmitted to OCSLA for pre-certification on 19 July 2017. The Department is expecting feedback from OCSLA by mid-September and upon pre-certification the Bill will be presented at two DG Clusters, namely: Economic Sectors, Employment and Infrastructure Development (ESEID) and Governance and Administration (G&A).

Preferential procurement reference to Operation Phakisa Lab (ATS and SAM)

The DAFF and the Department of Trade and Industry are in discussion on procurement of fish products by schools, hospitals and correctional services. The Free State Economic Development Agency seeks to source aquaculture products for school feeding schemes in the Free State province. Desktop research on preferential procurement was conducted in respect of aquaculture projects and products. DAFF is further engaging the DTI on the establishment of baseline data.

Feedback from the World Aquaculture Conference

The World Aquaculture 2017 (WA2017) was the first international conference and exposition of the World Aquaculture Society (WAS) to be held on the African continent at the Cape Town International Convention Centre from 26 to 30 June 2017. The conference was hailed as a huge success. It was co-organized by WAS with the Aquaculture Association of Southern Africa (AASA) and the South African Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF).

The WA2017 succeeded in attracting an entirely new pan-African participation to the international aquaculture community, with 1 297 of the delegates originating from 33 African countries. This was complemented by the well supported trade show with 87 exhibitors. WA2017 attracted a wide international representation from 87 countries with 489 presentations and 215 posters.

The conference was themed, “*Sustainable Aquaculture – New Frontiers for Economic Growth – Spotlight on Africa*” and highlighted the potential of aquaculture production to support economic development and investment opportunities in Africa, the world’s second fastest growing regional economy. The presentations and trade show activity confirmed that aquaculture in Africa is in a high growth phase, and is strongly supported by investors, governments and international development and finance institutions. World Aquaculture 2017 attracted substantial sponsorships and support from African governments, development institutions and the commercial sector. These included the South African Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), the African Union’s Inter-African Union for Animal Resources and NEPAD, and the World Fish Centre. The industry Gold Sponsor was the Aller-Aqua Group from Denmark, which indicated its confidence in the growing aquafeed market in Africa by making investments in feed manufacturing and distribution in Egypt, Nigeria and Zambia.

The highlight of the event was the consensus achieved to launch an African Chapter of the World Aquaculture Society. Substantial institutional support was committed to this process with the African Union’s NEPAD Agency agreeing to host a WAS African Chapter Office and the South African DAFF providing seed finance.

The Student Programme included a special tour of the DAFF Marine Research Aquarium and a

well-received writing workshop presented by Dr Rodrigue Yossa from Cameroon who was an inspiring role model for African students. Emerging student research talent was highlighted during Spotlight Presentations at the Plenary opening session where the top three student abstracts were presented. The best student abstract was won by an African student, Ms Rufaida Duhai of Sultan Qaboos University in Oman.

The Spotlight on Africa theme concluded with the WorldFish/SADC African Aquaculture Policy Day, which resulted in a joint 'call to action' statement being released by the Southern and East African Development Community stakeholders, encouraging the establishment of cooperative institutional frameworks for effective governance, creation of consolidated R&D centres of excellence for coordinated sustainable aquaculture research and investment in capacity building and educational programs.

Congratulations and endorsement of the meeting outcomes have poured in from many quarters, including Sir Michael New (WAS President 1997-1998), AU Chairman H.E. Mr. Alpha Condé - President of the Republic of Guinea, Mr. Senzeni Zokwana - the South African Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and NEPAD CEO Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki. The meeting cemented the emerging relationship between the WAS and Africa, which will be nurtured under the incoming WAS Presidency of Dr Bill Daniels.

A submission will be submitted to SARS in the next coming weeks. Currently there is no SARS custom number to export tilapia and in this vacuum of proper legislation, it will be difficult to export talipia. The rationale of the submission to SARS is to import tilapia feed on a lowered ad valorem tariff or to remove the tariff.

Reports from Working Groups

Marketing Research and Intelligence Working Group

Interest was received from Iran to supply 500 tons per month of tilapia, which the industry cannot deliver. However the offer is still on the table. Iran is also interested in importing trout and they were happy with the quality, and veterinary services have issued the export permit. Taiwan has also expressed interest to source oysters from South Africa. Various industry bodies were engaged regarding the establishment of AquaSA, which will undertake initiatives relating to market access and research, market and product development and consumer and public awareness.

Aquaculture SA

The AquacultureSA business plan was changed to a business funding proposal. AquacultureSA is a fully registered entity and is a pinnacle sector representative.

DAFF-AASA Phakisa service provision contract

The DAFF has signed a contract with the Aquaculture Association of Southern Africa (AASA) to carry out certain aquaculture market and value development activities identified within the Operation Phakisa programme.

The activity areas include:

- ✓ Develop a certification (4 pillars) framework for aquaculture products in RSA;
- ✓ Train and certify at least 2 local auditors to undertake auditing against international BMP/certification standards;
- ✓ Public awareness and marketing strategy for aquaculture products and the sector in RSA;
- ✓ Promote aquaculture in the African region - Establish a World Aquaculture Society (WAS) African Chapter;
- ✓ Establish an Aquaculture Research and Policy Forum;
- ✓ Plan and arrange an aquaculture seafood festival for November 2017; and
- ✓ Small scale farmers trained in setting up an association, skilled in the production and accessing markets.

The project will be managed by an AASA-DAFF steering committee with industry consultation and input through a representative oversight committee.

Determine the scope and methodology of developing representation/association for small scale farmers

DAFF is funding AASA to assist in forming small scale farmer representation / association. AVCRT must assist and agree on the methodology and scope of forming small scale farmer representation. Provincial departments have to be involved as they know and work directly with farmers.

EIM seminars by DEA

The Department of Environmental Affairs through the Directorate IEMS Capacity and Support is rolling out a yearly training programme on Integrated Environmental Management (IEM). In the programme, there are seminars, which will be rolled out quarterly to relevant Environmental Sector stakeholders on the law reform and IEM in general. DEA is funding the Special Needs Project using the CSIR to conduct EIAs for applicants who can't afford them. It is imperative that stakeholders attend seminars so that they could be informed of changes in the EIA regulations, and to enable them to use that knowledge in the application process.

Aquaculture Hub Initiative

A concept document titled “A new way of developing aquaculture” was discussed at the AVCRT meeting. The concept document seeks to fast track the development of aquaculture through the establishment of hubs. There is confusion on what is a cluster, hub and agri-park and what the terms really want to achieve. These government initiatives must be coordinated to avoid duplications.

RECORD OF DECISIONS

The following decisions were agreed upon during the meeting on the 25th July 2017:

- The AVCRT will inform the members about the new developments within aquaculture in between the meetings.
- The AVCRT mandate must be expanded to evaluate proposals and CASP business plans that are submitted for investments.
- Research and adopt one effective model, whether being a cluster, co-operative or hub.
- Mr Skosana must forward IEM training programme to the AVCRT secretariat to circulate it to the AVCRT members.
- A task team to plan and coordinate an aquaculture seafood festival must be formed as soon as possible.
- Mr Neil Stallard must explain further the Aquaculture Hub concept document at the next meeting.
- AIL and AVCRT meetings must be organised in November to coincide and to build momentum to the Seafood Festival.

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