



From Healthy Waters to Healthy People

Global Action Network Sustainable Food from the Oceans and Inland Waters for Food Security and Nutrition

Summary from the Network workshop held on the 23rd September 2020 at 7-10 am and 12-15 pm (GMT)

The Global Action Network meeting at FAO in Rome this summer was postponed due to Covid 19. This workshop was arranged in order to update each other and further develop the [Gain and share](#) tool. 51 representatives from ministries, institutions and organizations signed up for the workshop. To accommodate different time zones the workshop was arranged twice, this summary is a combination from both workshops.

The [opening speech](#) was given by the Norwegian Minister of Fisheries and Seafood

Inputs and updates on issues and actions relevant to the [Mission statement](#) were shared and discussed initially at the sessions, including ideas for further development of the network. The importance of a *holistic approach* was underscored, looking at the interlinks between the different key elements and also between [land-based and aquatic food systems](#). It was also noted that more knowledge on the *nutritional value* of aquatic foods is needed. The importance of looking at how aquatic food is *distributed* was emphasized, including *access* for the most *vulnerable groups*, how it contributes to the *nutritional status* and the need to prioritise the 'Right to food'. Furthermore, *food based dietary guidelines* was mentioned as an important tool. Governments should be encouraged to give advice about aquatic foods. *Fake news* about the quality and contamination of aquatic foods is a challenge that needs to be addressed. *Processing methods* may affect *food preferences*. The importance of taking into account *culture and perception and convenience* to increase aquatic food consumption was highlighted.

It was suggested that the Network should address *disaster impacts* caused by climate change e.g. cyclones, and the Covid 19 pandemic, as these may reduce access to aquatic foods, especially for vulnerable groups. It was noted that the CFS HLPE 15 report on the Global Narrative towards 2030 identifies such challenges. The network is linked to the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition, and several participants highlighted the importance of "bridging the decades" with the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), and the ten years left to fulfil the Sustainable development goals. It was also highlighted that the network provides an opportunity to initiate both bilateral and multilateral projects, as it provides an opportunity to include partners from different countries, backgrounds and fields of work. In this regard the importance of keeping those who participate at network meetings involved with the network was underscored. The network has led to some bilateral projects that might develop into more multilateral cooperation. Initiatives to obtain funding to develop projects, e.g. on aquaculture, connecting land and ocean were discussed. The importance of a common language for land and sea was highlighted as important in this regard.

Network members mentioned ongoing work relevant to the network, such as the CFS HLPE 15 report on the Global Narrative towards 2030, the international labour organization (ILO) [technical meeting](#) in November 2020, looking at working conditions in aquaculture. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) [CBD target 6](#) and the [Port State Measures agreement \(PSMA\)](#).

UNSCN gave an update of the development of the '[Discussion paper](#)' on the role of aquatic foods in sustainable healthy diets, that could be an important tool for policy makers. Network participants are contributing to this work. CGIAR Worldfish reported that CGIAR is going through a transition to the One CGIAR, which may lead to a more important role for aquatic food. WorldFish is launching a new Strategy on Aquatic Food Systems up to 2030. Focus has changed from only fish to all aquatic foods.

Norway, as the organizer of the global action network, provided an update on the status of the network, the [webpage](#) has been developed further to make the information more available. The Global Action Network has also launched a twitter account ([@Aquatic_Food](#)). All participants were encouraged to follow the twitter account and suggest information that can be shared through the Global Action Network, on twitter or on the webpage.

Prior and during the workshops inputs to the Gain and share document were provided and are highlighted in yellow. The [web version](#) will be updated accordingly. We need to share globally and act nationally, thus, in addition to links from international work, sharing links with national examples are encouraged.

The [Action plan](#) contains working methods and useful tools for the network, and relevant upcoming events which could be important arenas for the network participants to be aware of, and possible be a part of (arrange side events etc). Participants were invited to suggest links to relevant events. The [Mission Accomplished](#) will be continuously updated with actions completed by this network or members of the network.

The network organizers are also planning to arrange webinars, with short presentations on specific topics in the aquatic food chain. Each webinar will contain inputs on challenges, knowledge and possible solutions for the key elements that the network is focusing on. Participants are encouraged to join the organizers in developing these webinars. If participants have any inputs to this, or to the Gain and Share, Action Plan, Mission Accomplished, Spin-offs or other area, please send them to the secretariat (Foodfromtheocean@hi.no).

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