



# UNFSS

United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards

## **Scaling up sustainable production solutions: Impact of Voluntary Sustainability Standards on small-scale aquatic foods producers in least developed countries**

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A Platform of International Dialogue on Voluntary Sustainability Standards

# **IS SUSTAINABLE AQUATIC FOOD PRODUCTION POSSIBLE?**

**With all due respect, there is a need for aquatic sustainability.**

**Fish stocks can recover and replenish.**

**By taking care of our fish stock, they will take care of us.**

**If aquaculture is produced in a sustainable manner (social, environmental and economical), it can contribute to long-term food security and nutrition, healthy ecosystems and improve the living standards for all, especially the poorest.**

**Can Voluntary Sustainability standards help to achieve Sustainable Food production?**



# What are Voluntary Sustainability Standards?

- ▶ Requirements set by private entities that producers are asked to meet for economic, social and environmental sustainability metrics.
- ▶ By complying with VSS, the products carry a “seal-of-approval” eco-label or a sustainability claim.
- ▶ VSS can also include other metrics as: human rights, equitable profit sharing, decent working conditions, conservation of natural resource, biodiversity, and ecosystem.
- ▶ VSS market is rapidly growing. Consumers are willing to pay premium to VSS-labelled products.
- ▶ VSS are developed for land crops. Price Premium can lead to over-production, which is a problem in aquatic food production.

“Seal-of-Approval”

Effective marketing tool

Premium price

Market Access



# Developing countries often have problems with VSS because:

- ▶ They can't find credible standards
- ▶ Compliance can be costly
- ▶ Small-scale producers often faces risks of being left out
- ▶ Standards are not harmonized causing unnecessary multiplication
- ▶ Do we need a new generation of VSS for Aquatic Food Production a VSS 2.0?



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# Thank You

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