

Challenges and benefits for sustainable and fair small-scale aquaculture certification in Africa

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Aquaculture is Africa's fastest growing food system and contributes to food security in the continent. Part of the aquaculture produced in Africa is consumed in Europe or the Americas. The envisaged potential of small-scale aquaculture to provide the necessary volumes of nutritious food is growing. In addition to its contribution to food security at local, regional and global levels, aquaculture also contributes to rural economic development by providing income and employment.

The growth of this sector has given rise to a multitude of social, environmental and economic concerns. In order to address future concerns in the African aqua-

culture sector, in addition to food quality and safety, which are becoming a huge challenge for Africa's mostly small-scale fish farmers, certification acts as a tool for communication between the aquaculture producer and the consumer to ensure a quality and safe product in the market place, coming from an environmentally and socially responsible production system. For these reasons, certification and the development of special standards should be taken to promote the sustainability of the sector. This review article traces how to establish certification of aquaculture products, the challenges, opportunities and benefits for sustainable and more equitable small-scale aquaculture in Africa.