

## Increasing the productivity of African Catfish (*Clarias Gariepinus*)

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**ABSTRACT:** Fish is a major source of animal protein and an essential food item in the diet of many people across the world. Fish is also a good source of Thiamine, Riboflavin, Vitamin A and D, Phosphorus, Calcium, and Iron. It is also very high in polyunsaturated fatty acids which are important in lowering blood cholesterol level. For this reason, it is a crucial dietary component necessary to fill the yawning gap in global hunger and malnutrition. With declining capture resources across the oceans, aquaculture has become an imperative culture to save the world from malnutrition. Expectedly, aquaculture can only be sustained if it guarantees sustained profitability to the stakeholders along its chain. Globally, scientists are improving the potential of aquaculture to generate more resources for the stakeholders. This has been done through improved farming practices including genetic selection, feed and feeding, improved production systems, improved fish health and water quality and improved harvesting each of

which has incremental value addition on the total harvest.

However, experiences have shown that some other aspects are beyond the scope of scientists to manage. These include policy, standards and markets. Attending to all these simultaneously provide a great opportunity to advance yield, harvest, and income among all stakeholders. This requires a social re-engineering of the production system in such a way that it delivers benefits in a win-win scenario. The Innovation Platform has been described and widely tested to do this for crops and livestock but not as widely used for aquaculture. This paper describes how the Innovation Platform could assist the stakeholders of the aquaculture industry increase yield and income from aquaculture towards the attainment of the SDGs.

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