

DEVELOPING THE WORLD'S FIRST SYSTEM FOR THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF AQUATIC GENETIC RESOURCES

In 2019, FAO published *The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, the first global assessment on the status of conservation, sustainable use and development of aquatic genetic resources for food and agriculture (AqGR), particularly those species used in aquaculture and their related farmed types and wild stocks. The assessment highlighted, among other things: a lack of detailed information on AqGR, especially below the species level; inadequate information systems for AqGR; and insufficient standardized mechanisms and terminology for reporting information on AqGR. In response to these identified needs and challenges, the Members of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission) requested FAO to develop a global information system for the reporting and monitoring of farmed and wild AqGR. Such an information system should also function as an authoritative tool for monitoring the implementation, by countries, of the *FAO Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of AqGR* (Global Plan of Action).



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

FAO initially developed a prototype information system, able to collect information only for species and farmed types of AqGR. The prototype was developed in close consultation with FAO Members and relevant stakeholders through a series of regional workshops. The project's scope was subsequently expanded to transform the initial prototype into a fully functional information system operating under a bespoke platform, which was named AquaGRIS, to include also information on wild stocks of cultured species. Both the initial prototype and the full version of AquaGRIS were extensively field-tested through data collection on different species and countries conducted by AqGR National Focal Points and other AqGR experts, and by staff of the Project Task Force. AquaGRIS is designed to target the needs of policymakers, resource managers, aquaculture producers, scientists from academia and other research institutes, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The tool is the very first of its kind. Prior to its development there was no information system able to collect data on AqGR below the level of species and thus no mechanism to systematically monitor the status of these important resources.

KEY FACTS

Latest Approved Budget

USD 829 132

Duration

December 2018–December 2023

Resource Partner

Government of the Federal Republic of Germany

Partners

The Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) of the Federal Republic of Germany

Beneficiaries

Policymakers, resource managers, producers, scientists from academia and other research institutes, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

IMPACT

By developing an information system for reporting and monitoring on farmed AqGR at and below the level of species, FAO has contributed to helping countries improve their capacity for implementing the Global Plan of Action and monitoring progress on the conservation, sustainable use and development of AqGR used in the aquaculture sector. Indeed, a comprehensive and standardized information system is a key requirement, enabling countries to enhance contribution from AqGR to food security in a sustainable way.

ACTIVITIES

- Prototype information system developed to collect information for species and farmed types of AqGR.
- Prototype information system expanded into a fully functional information system (AquaGRIS) through development of a bespoke platform, to include wild stocks of cultured species. AquaGRIS has two user interfaces (UIs), one for data entry and one for data dissemination.
- Extensive field-testing of the prototype system conducted, with support of experts, training materials developed, and training workshops delivered. Data has been entered, to date, for a total of: 134 species, 279 primary farmed types, 55 secondary farmed types, 27 genetic stocks and 25 management/assessment units, covering 46 countries.
- Capacity-development activities carried out with over 80 trainees, including National Focal Points, their nominees and species experts, for a total of 22 countries.
- Compilation of complete data on species, farmed types and wild stocks from nine countries, as demonstration case studies, uploaded on AquaGRIS.
- Communication materials and activities developed promoting the importance and value of the registry and the new nomenclature on farmed types.
- Two countries (Indonesia and Chile) initiated projects to develop national strategies for the management of AqGR.



Project Title

Registry of Farmed Types of Aquatic Genetic Resources

Project Code

FAO: GCP/GLO/970/GER
Donor: GenR 2018-5

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