



NEPAD NEWS

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World Aquaculture 2017 puts Africa in the spotlight

Cape Town – Representing the coming of age of African aquaculture and a significant milestone for the global aquaculture community, World Aquaculture Society (WAS) hosted their first meeting on African soil and launched the formation of a WAS Africa Chapter. The four-day event kicked off in Cape Town, South Africa on June 26 under the theme 'Sustainable Aquaculture – New Frontiers for Economic Growth – Spotlight on Africa.'

H.E Ambassador Mamady Camara addressed the launch of the formation of the WAS Africa Chapter on behalf of Guinean President Professor Alpha Condé, Chairman of the African Union and NEPAD Agency Champion for Fisheries and Aquaculture. Ambassador Camara assured the global aquaculture community that, "The African aquaculture community will make significant investment and commitment to their newly formed chapter and will do all in its power to sustain the momentum of the WAS African Chapter."

World Aquaculture 2017 hosted 1 283 African participants from 33 African countries among the almost 2000 delegates, highlighting the potential of Africa's fisheries and aquaculture sector to support economic development, food security and nutrition and investment opportunities in the region.

Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO of NEPAD Agency delivered a key note address at the opening ceremony of the meeting, underscoring four key messages to the global aquaculture community including the need to:

- Strengthen the basic knowledge, data collection, analysis and dissemination of information to accelerate growth and transformation of the sector;
- Create an enabling environment for investment in both large as well as small and medium-sized aquaculture enterprises; - *continues on page 2*

There is great potential in the inland fishery and aquaculture sector to increase fish production and utilisation, thereby creating employment and economic opportunities for youth through aquaculture activities.

*- CEO of the NEPAD Agency,
Dr Ibrahim Mayaki*



Guinea Ambassador to South Africa, H.E Mamady Camera and Dr Mayaki paid a visit to the NEPAD Agency exhibition stand in Cape Town

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- Continue sensitising public authorities on the contribution of fish and aquaculture to issues of food and nutrition security to further elevate fisheries in the continental agenda; and
- Continue to align national and regional policies with the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for fisheries and aquaculture in Africa.

Dr Mayaki highlighted the strong political will by many African states to work with NEPAD Agency and AU IBAR to use instruments developed by the two agencies for strengthening fisheries and aquaculture management on the continent. He also stated that, "There is great potential in the inland fishery and aquaculture sector to increase fish production and utilisation, thereby creating employment and economic opportunities for youth through aquaculture activities."

During the opening session of the meeting, the South African Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Honorable Minister Senzeni Zokwana, reiterate the message that "African aquaculture is very promising for both global future production growth and job creation."

Other speakers included Dr Rohanna Subasinghe, former Chief of Aquaculture for the FAO, who spoke on 'Feeding the Nine Billion: The Role of Aquaculture,' and Dr Sloans Chimatiro, Acting Country Director of WorldFish Zambia Office, who unpacked the 'African Perspectives on Aquaculture.' In recognition of the early developmental stage of African aquaculture, special sessions on developing value chains, financing African aquaculture, and policy implementation were presented by the African Union, NEPAD Agency, World Bank and WorldFish.

The trade show hosted more than 90 exhibitors, including NEPAD Agency, while the conference featured over 70 parallel sessions covering an array of aquaculture-related topics and speakers. In addition to supporting participants from Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to attend the meeting, NEPAD Agency also sponsored some students from around the continent who benefitted from a series of activities including a tour of the South African Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) Marine Research Aquarium, a science writers workshop, the Student Spotlight presentations and awards, special seminars and a student reception.

An African session was arranged by AU-IBAR, NEPAD Agency and the RECs to align the Chapter with existing initiatives at the continental level that are underway. This important session served to encourage strong ownership of the WAS Africa Chapter by the continent. On the sidelines of the meeting, the president's reception organised by SADC and WorldFish provided for discussion on how to mainstream fisheries and aquaculture into national agricultural investment plans.

The event was co-organised by WAS with the Aquaculture Association of Southern Africa and DAFF. It has attracted wide sponsorship and support from African development institutions including DAFF, NEPAD Agency, AU-IBAR and the WorldFish Centre. "Africa is here and she is ready," said Ms Siphokazi Ndundane from DAFF, as the event officially made its mark on the African continent.

Youth Day, South Africa

Message from Dr Ibrahim Mayaki

On June 16, South Africa commemorates Youth Day, a day to honour the role played by South Africa's young women and men in the pursuit of independence and social economic development. As we reflect on the gains of the past, we also celebrate the successes of South Africa's young entrepreneurs and innovators - taking on new frontiers and staking their claim in the country's socio-economic growth. On the other hand, as we look for hope towards a brighter future, we need to also reflect on the high unemployment levels and education challenges faced by young adults. This is against a backdrop of 27,7% national unemployment rate of which youth unemployment consists 38,6% in the country (SA Stats).

This scenario is not unique to South Africa, as it resonates with the rest of the African continent in which about 200 million of its people are aged between 15 and 24. Africa has countries with the 10 youngest populations in the world and the youth populations continent-wide are set to double by 2050. Furthermore, approximately 66% of young people are unemployed. They are unable to find jobs within the job market due to a mismatch of skills and demand. Recognising the critical role of youths in shaping the continent's future, the African Union theme for 2017 is *Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth*. However, without more deliberate and concerted efforts to address the challenges faced by youths today, such as unemployment and lack of meaningful economic opportunities which rank high, Africa faces the real risk of frustration from the youth leading to a spike in instability and civil conflicts. Youth Day should therefore remind us all to take action, and to take that action now, to put in place conditions for our youths to develop into skilled entrepreneurs and innovators, as well as provide meaningful employment and economic opportunities for them. To this end, NEPAD Agency promotes policy and capacity development interventions such as support towards the development of National Action Plans on youth employment and skills development, enhancing the employability and entrepreneurial activity for young people. The interventions include promoting innovative approaches for employment orientated Technical Vocational Education Training and promoting decent rural youth employment and entrepreneurship in agriculture and agribusiness.

On the bright side, Africa's youthful population is one from which real dividends can be drawn, since they make up the much needed working-age population that is crucial for the continent's economic growth. According to the World Bank, Africa's youth demographic dividend can potentially generate 11-15% GDP growth between 2011 and 2030. What is more, if African countries were to take full advantage of this potential dividend and provide adequate education and jobs, up to \$500bn a year could be added to its economies for 30 years. As South Africa celebrates Youth Day, let us not forget that it was the events in 1976 that contributed to changing the socio-political landscape of the whole country. Oppression through inferior education and limited choices for youths was not acceptable then, and it is not acceptable now. It is up to us then to work together with youths today, in creating a brighter future for generations to come, even as we build 'The Africa We Want' in the African Union's Agenda 2063. In making this appeal, I would like to echo the words of Nelson Mandela,

*"To the youth of today, I also have a wish to make: Be the script writers of your destiny and feature yourselves as stars that showed the way towards a brighter future."*²



Various vector control interventions have been implemented for many years with limited success in eliminating malaria. Gene drives can offer the elimination of malaria in Africa.

Regulating gene drive technologies, vector control programmes in the RECs

Nairobi – NEPAD Agency convened a meeting of experts in the East African Community (EAC) region to consult and discuss the potential that emerging technologies, including gene drives, can offer the elimination of malaria in Africa.

It is a fact that malaria is number one killer disease that takes the lives of many people in Africa. In 2015, there were 212 million new cases of malaria reported worldwide, 90 percent of which were from Africa. Out of the estimated 429 000 malaria deaths worldwide in the same year, 92% occurred in the African region, WHO reports.

Various vector control interventions have been implemented for many years with limited success in eliminating the disease. Interventions such as, indoor residual spraying (IRS) and insecticide treated bed nets (ITNs) have been employed but have been hampered by resurgence of resistance of mosquitoes against the chemicals.

The consultation meeting held from 20-22 June 2017 in Nairobi, Kenya, under the leadership of Prof. Aggrey Ambali. The meeting offered a window of opportunity for experts in the EAC region to put their minds together to discuss the new technology on gene drives as an additional intervention to complement the existing malaria control efforts.

The environmental, agricultural, biosafety and health experts, regulators and scientists were drawn from twelve (12) countries and regional economic communities namely; Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and the East African Community Secretariat.

The partners present in the meeting included; Donald Danforth Plant Science Centre (DDPSC); International Life Sciences Institute Research Foundation (ILIS); Foundation for the National Institute of Health(FNIH); Target Malaria, BioInnovate, Ifakara Research Centre, Pan African Mosquito Control Association (PAMCA) and Africa Academy of Sciences (AAS).

The meeting took a holistic approach of looking at how the existing legal and institutional frameworks should be strengthened to regulate the current and emerging vector borne diseases in a sustainable manner.

The workshop provided an opportunity for experts to consider, through a case study approach, the ways a gene-drive strategy in *Anopheles gambiae* for mitigating malaria could be implemented safely without additional harm either for the environment or for human and animal health.

The meeting was attended by experts from different countries and RECs





The challenge of commodities is to make it a source of growth for the African continent. Local demand for commodities in response to growing African demand and capturing a greater share of added value is crucial.

From Africa's 'resource curse' to Africa's 'wealth'

Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO, NEPAD Agency

Nobel economist Jan Tinbergen has shown in his work the negative impacts that the exploitation of natural resources can have on the economics of a country, based on the example of the Netherlands with the extraction of natural gas in the 1960s. Since then, the "Dutch disease" theory has evolved to refer to the "resource curse". Africa, a continent rich in raw materials of all kinds, obviously faces a challenge in terms of managing the rent derived from the exploitation of its resources.

The 2017 version of the Annual Report on Commodity Analytics and Dynamics in Africa (Arcadia)[1] deals with the evolution of the various linkages between Africa and world commodity markets, considering both economic and structural developments. Talking about commodities, just like talking about Africa in general, is a huge challenge in view of the heterogeneity that characterises these two fields of study.

The report therefore focuses on raw materials "that matter" to African countries. These is the case obviously of iron ore and cobalt, present in the African subsoil, which have soared this year. US and China investment announcements in infrastructure led to an increase in iron ore prices (+ 70% this year) and bauxite (the source of aluminium). A country like Guinea, which accounts for nearly a quarter of the world's bauxite reserves, is expected to benefit from unprocessed export bans in Indonesia and the Philippines to become the world's largest exporter.

However, there are many examples of countries illustrating the danger of a national economy and state budget dependent on commodities, whose prices are essentially volatile. The downturn in cocoa prices has led to serious social and economic unrest in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, despite the good macroeconomic performances of both countries. Angola, South Africa and Nigeria, the continent's main economic driving forces, were also hard hit by falling prices for oil, precious stones and metals.

Obviously, the various economic difficulties of these states cannot be explained only by the fall in commodity prices. Each country has an economic, fiscal and budgetary context explaining its level of GDP and growth. However, pan-African challenges persist across the continent: improving the attractiveness of mining activities, promoting electricity generation through renewable energy, strengthening food security by developing an efficient agricultural model and increasing the capacity of states and companies to raise funds.

The challenge of commodities is to make it a source of growth for the African continent. Local demand for commodities in response to growing African demand and capturing a greater share of added value is crucial. And for that, let us not forget a fundamental aspect: the rent derived from raw materials must be managed in the long term with structural policy instruments, without falling into the trap of short-term management exposed to the risk of cyclical reversals. Thus, we will definitely make commodities an asset for African economies.

[1] Arcadia 2017, « Annual Report on Commodity Analytics and Dynamics in Africa », edited Philippe CHALMIN et Yves JEGOUREL, publishing house ECONOMICA et OCP Policy Center 2017



L to R: Jason Liddell, German State Secretary Ralf Kleindiek and Diana Mawoko



What is alarming is the fact that 25 per cent of youth in middle-income nations and 15 per cent in high income nations are NEETs: *Not in education, employment or training.*

Youth designing the world's future

Berlin - Earlier this month, the International Youth Services of the Federal Republic of Germany organised an international G20 youth dialogue that saw young people from all the G20 states, partner countries involved in the G20 process and international organisations including the NEPAD Agency come together to provide their input from a youth perspective to create and present a position paper to Chancellor Angela Merkel. The position paper will be discussed by the G20 Heads of State in Hamburg, Germany from 7 to 8 July 2017.

NEPAD Agency was represented at the Youth 20 Dialogue by Diana Mawoko, Junior Technical Adviser in the Natural Resources programme and Jason Liddell, Network and Infrastructure Administrator.

"The summit deepened our understanding on important cross-cutting issues such as the 2030 Agenda, digitisation and the importance of youth participation in decision making processes, either through youth councils and organisations in government structures," Mawoko said.

During the Youth 20 Dialogue, discussants highlighted the importance of inclusive and transparent global governance, encouraging the G20 to uphold the highest standards in this regard. The G20 was also encouraged to develop and adopt creative solutions to address shared challenges.

It was also noted that youth, in particular, face common and deep-rooted challenges, such as lack of economic opportunities, and lack of youth involvement in the global economy. In 2017, global youth unemployment rates is expected to reach 13.1 per cent (ILO, 2017). What is even more alarming is the fact that 25 per cent of youth in middle-income nations and 15 per cent in high income nations are NEETs: not in education, employment or training (OECD, 2017).

Among the recommendations included in the Position Paper developed by the youths are a call to:

- Identify challenges and opportunities from a youth perspective to develop strategies to harness the power of youth's dynamism to generate global and sustainable economic growth;
- Examine the evidence to rethink global trade towards a more inclusive and responsive 21st century
- Implement national skills recognition systems to assess skills acquired outside of formal education and training systems, including those gained from participation in youth organisations and volunteering
- Ensure universal digital access
- Implement sustainable solutions to environmental problems which will only be possible by providing technical and legislative resources while increasing investment in research and development as well as in technology transfer
- Raise awareness of the 2030 Agenda globally
- Empower women and commit to young women's right to economic empowerment and participation in leadership and decision-making positions
- Strengthen and fully implement the UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security to maintain peace
- Effectively engage and empower civil society to be a part of the solution in combatting the spread of radicalisation and terrorism
- Include anticorruption commitments under Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Attend to the determinants of health such as economics, governance, commercial factors, and social protection

Upon his return from Berlin, Jason Liddell vowed to "Continue to create awareness to fellow youth on the G20 process starting with youth in the NEPAD Agency!"



Hedging and soil protection technology developed in a project in Comoros to combat erosion

Combating desertification, deforestation and climate change in Comoros through sustainable land management and restoration is a key priority.

Sustainable land management and restoration in Comoros

Moroni - Combating desertification, deforestation and climate change in Comoros through sustainable land management and restoration is a key priority. The degradation of soil, erosion and deforestation which often results from crop cultivation on slopes without proper terracing is one of the challenges that the country is currently addressing.

In collaboration with the Government of Comoros, the NEPAD Agency organised the TerrAfrica partnership joint mission in the country from 21-23 June. The objective of the joint mission was to take stock of and get a full understanding of the ongoing work and status of sustainable land management in the country. The aim was also to see how best to coordinate TerrAfrica partners' efforts to provide comprehensive support to the design and implementation of the Comoros' investment framework in this area.

During the mission, Rudo Makunike, NEPAD Agency's Sustainable Land Management Senior Programme Officer, pointed out that land represents a driving force for transformation and development in the country. She emphasised the importance of building synergies with other related on-going initiatives such as the UNCCD's Land Degradation Neutrality target setting processes, AFR100, CAADP and Redd+ processes, for a more concerted and impactful effort.

The technical meeting attracted over 30 participants from various government ministries such as the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, universities, non-governmental and civil society organisations, as well as key partners including UNCCD-GM, UNDP and FAO.

The participants all agreed on the critical need to firstly prioritise the official launch of the Sustainable Land and Water Management (SLWM) platform which will also serve as the platform for Land Degradation Neutrality target setting and other related initiatives such as AFR100 in line with the TerrAfrica's vision of building a harmonised and coordinated approach for all SLWM related initiatives.

The meeting also highlighted the importance of developing the Country Strategic Investment Framework, as a guideline for identifying country priority areas for SLWM interventions and aligning resources for implementation of identified priorities. This will also help build capacities through demonstrating best practices and practical tools, with the objective of generating and initiating work on sustainable land management and restoration in Comoros, in order to address desertification, deforestation and climate change.

The NEPAD Agency TerrAfrica team also had the opportunity to meet and discuss with the Chief of Staff of the Cabinet of the President of Comoros, Mr Youssef Mohamed Ali as well as the Secretary General of the Vice-Presidency in charge of Agriculture, Fisheries, Environment, Land Use Plan and Urbanisation, Mr Youssef Hamadi, the importance of the SLWM Agenda in the country. Both of them lauded the mission and reaffirmed their commitment to the SLWM agenda, by further requesting the speedy launch of the Comoros SLWM platform at the end of this year.



Dryers are part of the effort by government, both to improve food supplies and local fishing businesses. Malawi has some 56,000 small-scale fishers, 87 percent of them working in the two lakes [Malawi and Chilwa]. In all, nearly 300,000 people rely on fishing for food or income.

Some of Malawi's fishing communities are turning to low-tech solar "tents"

Some of Malawi's fishing communities are turning to low-tech solar "tents" to dry out their fish in an attempt to boost their incomes.

On the shores of lakes Malawi and Chilwa, some fishing communities are turning to low-tech solar "tents" to dry out their fish in an attempt to boost their incomes already hurt by dwindling fish numbers.

Fish are traditionally dried by laying them out in the open, but this means they are prey to animals, flies and dust. In the rainy season - when the fishermen get their biggest catches - the fish are prone to rotting. For every 10 fish caught in Lake Malawi, four are spoiled, according to University of Malawi scientists.

The 17 solar "tents" dry the fish quickly and protect them from pests, improving their quality and opening up new markets for them, locals say. The walls are made of bricks and polythene sheets, which trap the sun's heat inside where fish are spread on mesh shelving beneath corrugated iron roofs.

"Air vents on solar tent dryers allow circulation of air for the fish to dry faster," said Hamisi Nyampesi, leader of Youth Against Darkness, a local organisation which hopes to sell dried fish to up-market shops.

"The [tents] also keep [the fish] safe during both rainy and dry seasons," said Nyampesi.

"The region's fish trade is dominated by small and medium-sized businesses, most of which are headed by women," said Sloans Chimatiro, Acting Country Director for World Fish.

One such business - Kachulu Women Fish Processors - is using four solar dryers. "We now own proper structures to help in fish processing, so that we remain competitive on the market," said Ethel Kabwerebwere, chair of the group.

"The only challenge is that the fish are scarce due to dwindling lake levels, as a result of wanton degradation taking place within the lake catchment area," she added.

Fish numbers in the lakes are falling because of overfishing, and damage to breeding grounds partly caused by a build-up of silt from soil erosion nearby, experts say.

Lake Chilwa - located on Malawi's eastern border with Mozambique - is now less than five metres deep. The lake's fish have also been hit by the loss of Typha water plants which act as breeding grounds. The plants were cut by migrant fishermen from the northern part of the lake to make it easier for them to catch fish, according to World Fish.

The dryers are part of an attempt by the government both to improve food supplies and local fishing businesses. Malawi has some 56,000 small-scale fishers, 87 percent of them working in the two lakes, according to the Department of Fisheries. In all, nearly 300,000 people rely on fishing for food or income.

Story by Charles Mkoka

Originally published by Thomson Reuters Foundation

Upcoming Events

- 27 Jun - 7 Jul 2017: *29th AU Summit, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia*
- 7 Jul - 8 Jul 2017: *G20 Summit, Hamburg, Germany*
- 30 Oct - 1 Nov 2017: *Commemoration of the 8th Africa Day for Food and Nutrition Security with Continental Symposium on Food Systems, Kigali, Rwanda*
- 31 Oct - 3 Nov 2017: *PIDA Week, Walvis Bay, Namibia*
- 27 - 29 Nov 2017: *3rd Biennial Scientific Conference on Medical Products Regulation in Africa, Accra, Ghana*
- 27 - 29 Nov 2017: *Third ICAO Aviation Forum (IWAF/3), Abuja, Nigeria*

See also: www.nepad.org/events

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Announcements

Launch of Global Hunger Index: Africa Report

2nd July, 2017 | 8:00 - 9:30 am | Radisson Blu Hotel, Addis Ababa

In fighting hunger and malnutrition in Africa, the NEPAD Agency in collaboration with IFPRI, ReSAKSS, Concern World and Welthungerhilfe, will launch the Global Hunger Index (GHI) : Africa Report to inform and secure buy-in and commitment among the policy makers and other stakeholders on the Zero Hunger campaign by promoting the generation and application of GHI data. This will improve the design, strengthen the implementation and foster investments in food security and nutrition on the continent in line with the continental target of zero hunger by 2030 and towards Agenda 2063, the Africa we wants.



2 July 2017
13:00 -13:30 pm

AU Headquarters
Briefing Room 1

MEDIA & YOUTH

Engagement Session

with
Dr Ibrahim Mayaki
NEPAD Agency CEO

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