



AQUACULTURE WITHOUT FRONTIERS

Friday 10th of September of 2021.

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It is my pleasure, as the new appointed president of Aquaculture without Frontiers (AwF), to congratulate you and all your team on behalf of the organization for the successful completion of the “Shanghai Declaration: Aquaculture for food and sustainable development”, which will undoubtedly be a decisive moment for the development of aquaculture.

AwF was established in 2004 for the specific purpose of promoting and supporting responsible and sustainable aquaculture to assist in poverty alleviation and malnutrition through improving rural livelihoods in developing countries. We are strongly aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their focus on the elimination of hunger and reduction of poverty and inequality of all forms, and, as FAO, we believe that to feed a population expected to reach 10 billion by 2050, eliminate hunger, and reduce poverty and inequality, aquaculture will need to become more sustainable by increasing resource efficiency and reducing its environmental footprint throughout the value chain.

AwF seeks to promote aquaculture as a component of integrated rural and coastal development plans, and of strategies to alleviate poverty and hunger. We facilitate lasting change by building networks and partnerships with local organizations (cooperatives, universities, NGOs, government agencies and others). AwF has a focus on engaging women and youth and believes that aquaculture practiced in a sustainable manner is one of the most efficient methods to improve household income, nutrition, and overall social welfare. Environmental sustainability is an essential component of everything we do. Therefore, we fully agree on all overarching commitments and strategic priorities required to accelerate sustainable aquaculture development that have been identified.

AwF would like to emphasize the importance that:

- a. Aquaculture needs to be an instrument to improve the quality of life for the people engaged in it. It should be a good tool to promote the inclusion of women and the young in rural development, thus reducing rural migration.
- b. We must build a solid and resilient industry. Aquaculture does not need to adapt and take preventive measures for only climate change, but also for financial and multi-variable crises such as Covid-19.
- c. Capacity building programs should aim for the professionalization of the industry in all the value chain and at all levels including government personnel to keep up with new technological advances.

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- d. Thorough strategic planning must encompass various subsets of the industry such as marketing, service providers, capacity building, investment and financing, seafood consumption promotion, digitalization, seafood trade negotiations, development of trade cooperatives and associations, and regional cooperation.
- e. Investment funds dedicated to aquaculture need to be generated with public and private funding. Promoting and financing aquaculture projects at a competitive rate will be a key factor that could define the pace at which aquaculture develops.
- f. We must invest in research and development for utilizing cultured aquatic plants as feed ingredients for terrestrial livestock to reduce the pressure on agricultural land and reduce enteric methane emission from livestock.
- g. And most importantly, aquaculture needs to become a priority at a national, regional, and global level.

The Shanghai Declaration will set the path for aquaculture in the next decade, at AwF we are looking forward to partnering with FAO and any stakeholder that is interested in working together for the consolidation, professionalization, and improvement of aquaculture. We are aware that many paradigms would need to be broken for aquaculture to become the main source of protein in this planet, but with solid cooperation, partnerships and a goal in common everything is possible. Lets work together.



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Aquaculture without Frontiers

For background on our strictly volunteer charity organisation please visit our website www.aquaculturewithoutfrontiers.org which has all the information about our history, projects and who is on our Boards. AwF has established organisations in Australia (Charity) and Mexico (NGO), but the mainstay is our organisation incorporated in California #2671553 exempt from State and Federal taxes as a US501(c)(3) public charity.

We run several networks on social media - School/ Students; Women/ Gender; Global Indigenous; Aquaponics; Aquarium Fish, Latin America and recently Small Island Development States.