

# Innovation for A Sustainable Aquaculture, Cooperation for A Greener Future

*Statement from the Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences on supporting the "Shanghai Declaration"*

**T**oday, we are here to participate in the Global Conference on Aquaculture 2020, to witness the unprecedented achievements of aquaculture, and to meet the daunting challenges faced by aquaculture. We are all aware that as the world's fastest-growing food system, aquaculture has become one of the main pillars of global food and nutrition security and an important path for mankind to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Being the world's largest aquaculture producer, China has taken the lead in realizing aquaculture as the main source of aquatic products. This is the result of the hard work of practitioners and the achievement of the continuous development of industrial technology. For more than 70 years, the Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences (CAFS), a national fisheries research agency, has experienced the whole process of modern aquaculture development in China. We are honored to see that our achievements have promoted the industry to a new level. We are grateful to our international colleagues for their assistance and support during China's aquaculture development especially industrial and technological progress. We are proud that our knowledge and experiences are shared and worked well in other countries. Furthermore, we are looking forward to creating a new chapter in the sustainable development of global aquaculture with my colleagues at home and abroad in the future.

**A**t this conference from which we will forge ahead into the future, over 3,100 scientists and researchers of CAFS pledge the unwavering support for the common vision of sustainable aquaculture development advocated by the Shanghai Declaration, to explore the harmonious road of balancing aqua-product supply and sustainability, to build a comprehensive technology system that is compatible with the scale of the aquaculture business, to integrate a food value chain that is sustainable, economically, socially and environmentally, and to contribute to the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals in aquaculture.

**T**echnological innovation is paramount for the aquaculture industry to tackle challenges such as climate change, water shortage, biodiversity loss, and environmental pollution. It is necessary to explore the correlation between cultured species and the environment, make the utmost of the diversities of aquaculture modes and species to coordinate with the natural environment,

agriculture, capture fisheries, forestry, tourism, renewable energy, and other sectors, to reduce the carbon footprint and expand its potential capability as a carbon sink; to carry out the collection, preservation, identification, and evaluation of aquatic genetic resources, to create genetically improved farmed species as well as protect wild populations and their habitats; to conduct global joint research activities on major or newly emerging diseases in aquaculture, to reduce the use of chemical drugs and antibiotics, and establish cross-border and cross-regional monitoring systems for aquatic diseases and invasive species; to conduct interdisciplinary researches as a breakthrough to explore new aquaculture systems and alternative protein sources for feeds, to reduce the pollution of aquaculture and the dependence on wild fish, while opening up new aquaculture spaces in the deep sea and saline-alkali areas. Disruptive technologies are often hidden in the existing industrial modes. Bearing humility and awe for science and nature, we would seek new knowledge with full enthusiasm, and pursue the “the next innovation” of today’s industrial modes with inexhaustible motivation.

**W**e realize that strengthening partnerships and sharing knowledge, information and technology are essential for the sustainable development of global aquaculture. With the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), CAFS is jointly launching the "Global Sustainable Aquaculture Advancement Partnership (GSAAP)" aiming at balancing major global aquaculture production areas and scientific research resources, facing the problem that developing economies, accounting for more than 90% of global aquaculture production, are lack of modern aquaculture concepts and technologies. GSAAP is designed to build a collaborative platform involving academia, policymakers, organizations of farmers and consumers, entrepreneurs, and other interested stakeholders. GSAAP will devote to match the gaps between research achievements and production sectors by providing think tank services and building cooperation channels; strengthen the dialogue between aquaculture practitioners and scientific researchers to advance innovations and discoveries and disseminate sustainable practices and successful development modes; build inclusive partnerships based on common scientific concepts to promote sustainable aquaculture in the realization of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - zero hunger (SDG 2), no poverty (SDG 1), good health and well-being (SDG 3), gender equality (SDG 5), decent work and economic growth (SDG 8), climate action (SDG 13), and life below water (SDG 14).

**W**e believe that what we hold together are a belief in science and an open and cooperative mind. CAFS is willing to join hands with colleagues around the world to light the road to sustainable aquaculture with technological innovations; to head for a greener future of human societies through international collaboration.