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Statement of support to the Shanghai Declaration

Aquaculture & agriculture are important sources of food, nutrition, income and livelihoods for hundreds of millions of people around the world. The global climate is changing and its impacts associated with the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere from human activities, change in mean temperature, shifts in seasons and an increasing intensity of extreme weather events are already occurring and is predicted to worsen in the future. Millions of people, particularly those in developing countries, are facing shortages of water and food and greater risks to health. Therefore, it is critically important to address these climate change challenges especially in many Asia-Pacific countries, which are highly vulnerable.

Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia and the Pacific (NACA) and Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) and their partners have played a vital role in implementing many activities for climate change mitigation and adaptation in fisheries & aquaculture & agriculture, such as improving knowledge of climate change and related natural disasters and their impacts for policy makers, researchers, development practitioners and other stakeholders and strengthening adaptive capacities to the impacts of climate change and related natural disasters in their member countries.

We, therefore, fully support the Shanghai Declaration to prepare for and potentially mitigate impacts from global crises, such as climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and pandemics by building climate resilient in aquaculture and agriculture systems.

Most countries in Asia-Pacific have responded to the climate change challenges by formulating climate change strategy and action plans and have policies and disaster management and rural development. Number of institutions and funds have also been established to support the policy implementation. Despite such significant initiatives and policy frameworks, they are still facing challenges on the effects of climate change which need to be overcome for climate resilience and better livelihood. Many countries in the region still lack capacity to reduce risk and respond to negative effects of climate change. As a result, it hampers agricultural and aquaculture production as well as other rural livelihood alternatives.

To overcome these challenges, four groups of strategic actions will be established as regional initiatives as follows:

Group I. Increasing climate resilience of farmers, farming systems and breeds available for farming

Group II. Increasing capacity to manage short- and long-term climate risks and reduce losses from weather-related disasters

Group III. Improving sustainability of genetic diversity in brood stocks as a resource for long-term, continuous adaptation to climate change

Group IV. Finding the potentials and developing the capacity of aquaculture in mitigating the impact of and/or sequestering the release of greenhouse gas emissions

NACA & CIRDAP in collaboration with FAO and UN specialized agencies, their country members and partners will meet, discuss and develop active programmes of actions for countries in Asia and the Pacific region.

It is suggested that combined efforts should be made for setting up a digital platform for regional climate change impact assessment, showing the possible effects of climate change on aquaculture & agriculture in different countries over the next 15 years (increasing temperature, change in rainfall patterns, storm intensity and frequency, increase CO₂ levels and sea level rise). This will be done jointly with FAO family farming knowledge platform.

This would provide reliable and up-to-date database and decision-support systems for Governments, private sector, industry and farmers with information to make informed choices about how they should be adapting their aquaculture & agriculture development and production systems and related industries to climate change; defining adaptation strategies for the main environmental, disease and genetic threats caused by climate change, to inform and guide local community organizations or cooperatives; communicating the results of the vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning and strategies at all levels; and implementing pilot projects on adaptation and providing capacity building required to better manage farming systems.

NACA and CIRDAP, their country members and partners will collaborate and cooperate with FAO and other UN specialized agencies for building climate resilient in aquaculture & agriculture systems for supporting 500 million of small-scale and subsistence farmers in Asia and the Pacific Region.

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