



Pledges and statements of support for the Shanghai Declaration

Name of organization: Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific

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Country and/or region: Asia and the Pacific region

1. The Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA) wishes to express our endorsement of the Shanghai Declaration.
2. NACA notes that its 19 member governments in the Asia-Pacific region collectively contribute around 90 percent of global aquaculture production, and that aquaculture plays important roles in food security, poverty alleviation, rural livelihoods, employment, and biodiversity conservation, contributing significantly to achieving the SDGs.
3. NACA, as an intergovernmental organisation and a collaborative platform to promote aquaculture development in the Asia-Pacific region, emphasises the importance of international collaboration, networking, and partnership for aquaculture development.
4. NACA has been developing various regional collaborative networks of governments, institutions, development partners and individual professionals in the region for policy development and harmonisation, collaborative research, knowledge sharing, information exchange and technology transfer for aquaculture development.
5. NACA acknowledges the issues contained in the Declaration and supports the actions that it sets forth to address them.
6. NACA believes that action in the following strategic priority areas can deliver significant, concrete benefits and progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals:

A. Regarding “Expand the contribution of aquaculture to sustainable food systems towards nourishing nations and providing healthy, nutrient-rich and climate-friendly food to people”

NACA calls on member governments and partners for their continuing support to international collaboration, networking, and partnership. NACA will continue to mobilise, expand, and coordinate network expertise to develop and provide policy support and assist governments to integrate aquaculture into national nutrition and food security systems, increase aquaculture performance, and transform aquaculture to expand its contribution to achieving SDGs.

B. Regarding “Integrate aquaculture with the natural environment, with agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, regenerative energy and other sectors, and within food systems for increased resilience”

NACA in collaboration with governments and development partners will expand and strengthen collaborative research and capacity building across the region to integrate traditional knowledge of integrated aquaculture with modern farming innovations, contextualise and extend integrated aquaculture technology in respect to local resources, social and economic settings, and the natural environment.

C. Regarding “Continually improve the performance of aquaculture, and its capacity to minimize impact on and better use natural resources and enhance ecosystem services”, NACA will:

- a) Continue to invest significant resources in the development of better aquaculture management practices for key farming systems and promote their application in the region,
- b) Build capacity in the region for good aquaculture governance,

- c) Identify and promote ecological and resource-efficient farming systems and innovations that support sustainable intensification,
- d) Strengthen NACA's Aquatic Animal Health Programme to increase regional capacity in disease surveillance and reporting, aquatic animal health management, and biosecurity management in reducing the risks of transboundary movement of aquatic animals and aquatic animal products,
- e) Continue to collaborate with national, regional and international partners in the management of AMU and AMR in aquaculture, as well as food safety and certification,
- f) Facilitate genetic material exchange among NACA members.
- g) Support technical cooperation and capacity development in the development of "Smart Farming" systems. There is enormous potential to increase the efficiency of farming systems through investment in digital monitoring and control systems, automation and artificial intelligence, and secure traceability systems.

D. Regarding "Promote aquaculture development approaches that conserve and improve ecosystems and biodiversity, and reduce the carbon intensity of food production systems"

The diversity of aquaculture species and farming systems in the region create many opportunities to produce food with little or no carbon emissions, including through low trophic and filter-feeding species, and unfed farming systems based on natural productivity.

NACA will continue to: advocate technical exchange in and adoption of community-based and culture-based fisheries, and responsible stock enhancement as measures to develop livelihoods and improve local food production and food security in rural communities; integrated multitrophic aquaculture that provides ecosystem services to the coastal environment; and, promote unfed and extractive aquaculture such as seaweed and shellfish culture.

E. Regarding "Promote opportunities for young people, and decent work and socially responsible enterprises"

The aquaculture sector must become more economically attractive and inclusive if it is to retain young people. This in turn implies that the nature and intensity of farming systems must transition towards more profitable models. We believe that the best opportunity for addressing social inequalities and the needs of marginalised groups also lies with the younger generations. NACA will continue to support training and capacity building initiatives for young people and the improvement of rural farming systems.

F. Regarding "Prepare for and potentially mitigate impacts from global crises, such as the climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and pandemics"

CIRDAP and NACA have made a joint submission on this issue.

G. Regarding "Strengthen *data and information collection and analysis for monitoring the progress and contributions of aquaculture*", NACA will:

- a) Establish and implement an annual mechanism for monitoring, reviewing, and analysing aquaculture development in the region including production status, systems and technology, aquaculture services, research and extension, and contribution to achieving SDGs
- b) Maintain and improve the current aquaculture disease surveillance and reporting system of NACA
- c) Facilitate the collection of statistical information on aquaculture through NACA networks, disaggregated by gender and other relevant social considerations.