

IORA Trainer's training programme on Marine Aquaculture

Background

Fisheries provide food and are a source of income for coastal communities in IORA regions and thus play an important role in ensuring food security and poverty alleviation. To meet the increasing public demand in seafood products, natural fisheries resources are being overexploited and experiencing high pressures. The aquaculture industry is one of the alternatives to relieve pressure on fisheries and remedy to this situation. Aquaculture not only provides food and livelihoods to fishers but is a source of hard currency via export and participates in boosting up the countries' economy.

However, some form of aquaculture activities may impact on ocean and coastal resources through degradation/modification of natural habitat, waste disposal, introduction of invasive species and large requirements of fish meal and fish oils for aquaculture activities may further contribute to the depletion of wild fisheries stock. Therefore, a better understanding and knowledge of the entire cycle of the cultured species, the requirements at each stage in the production, their sustainability and impact on the environment is a pre-requisite.

Sustainable aquaculture development, as a mean to sustain the world fish supplies, is therefore a promising sector, and several aspects require future attention from IORA Member States. The present training programme will enable the sharing of expertise in the aquaculture sector among IORA Member States and address several topics, including: sustainable aquaculture practices and systems; broodstock and egg production; use of sustainable fish feeds; environmentally sound resource management (to prevent further depletion of fish stocks); safe and sound aquaculture practices; coastal/marine pollution; trade and marketing; conservation and rehabilitation of aquaculture sites; and post-harvest use, storage and processing.

Objectives

- To promote sharing of knowledge and best practices in the marine aquaculture sector
- To enhance cooperation and collaboration for the development of the Marine Aquaculture sector among IORA Member States
- To promote technology transfer for the establishment of marine aquaculture facilities in IORA Member States
- To ensure food security through marine aquaculture development
- To increase awareness on sustainable aquaculture practices and impact of aquaculture activities on marine habitats and coastal resources

Envisaged Outcomes

- Increase knowledge of IORA Member States on marine aquaculture
- Increase collaboration, cooperation and networking in the marine aquaculture sector in the IOR region
- Increase knowledge on the impact of marine aquaculture activities on marine habitats and coastal resources
- Increase awareness on the socio-economic impact of marine aquaculture in IORA Member States
- Increase technology transfer for the sustainable development of the marine aquaculture sector