Reseaux de Recherche sur L'Aquaculture
Durable en Afrique Sub-Saharienne

SARNISSA

Sustainable Aquaculture Research
Networks in Sub Saharan Africa

Aquainnova

SARNISSA

**Sustainable Aquaculture Research Networks for Sub Saharan Africa
A new era for strengthening African aquaculture development**

The Challenge

The main challenge we will address is the existing and historical lack of access to information and communication about aquaculture and its development for many of the wide range of individuals who are wishing to develop aquaculture across the continent.

SARNISSA aims to build a sustainable aquaculture research network (with a focus on individuals rather than institutions) for Africa, with a focus on Sub Saharan Africa, with strong linkages with Europe, Asia and internationally linking like-minded individuals and strengthening alliances between languages and across borders among experienced and emergent players in the African and wider aquaculture scene. Part of this project will build on an existing knowledge resource base and exchange platform – The Aquaculture Compendium.

The project team has a balance of considerable experience and expertise in the aquaculture research and commercial sectors, development and policy, and information technology, as well as an ability to work in different linguistic areas, and a track record in the implementation of activities at local to international level.

Project Objective

1. The project aims to deliver a comprehensive online interdisciplinary knowledge base required for individuals working in Sub Saharan African aquaculture to develop in a sustainable way. It will do this through user friendly, bi-lingual online wiki websites which will disseminate existing and new publications, news, videos, employment and funding opportunities, and information and contacts for existing African aquaculture producers, research organizations, government and NGO, market, and other sectors. SARNISSA will also be updating the online Aquaculture Compendium with existing and new African content.

2. It will increase communication between individuals across borders and languages via two SARNISSA online email discussion fora – one English speaking, one French. Individuals will be able to register for free on the SARNISSA website

3. Through online communication fora and the websites SARNISSA will encourage the formation of beneficial collaborations between members across a range of disciplines.

EATiP *Thematic Area of Relevance*

TA1: Product Quality, Consumer Safety and Health
TA2: Technology and Systems
TA3: Managing the Biological Lifecycle
TA4: Sustainable Feed Production
TA5: Integration with the Environment
TA6: Knowledge Management
TA7: Aquatic Animal Health and Welfare
TA8: Socio-Economics and Management

Key Words

Aquaculture, fish farming,research, networks, Africa, Sub Saharan Africa, information

Project Information

Contract number:
213143
Contract type:
Coordination (or networking) actions
Research area:
KBBE - Consolidate alliances with third countries in the field of aquaculture
Duration:
36 months (01/02/2008 – 31/01/2011)
Coordinator:
Professor Dave Little - Institute of Aquaculture, University of Stirling Airthrey Road n/a, Stirling, United Kingdom
Tel:
+44 1786 467923
E-mail:
dcl1@stir.ac.uk
Project website:
http://www.sarnissa.org/

SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

Key Points

- Improve access and exchange of information through individuals within Sub Saharan Africa and internationally to develop aquaculture.

- Initiate regular communication among stakeholders (researchers, commercial and market sectors, government agencies, NGOs, and others) in order to encourage them to collaborate and provide new materials (including user friendly case studies) related to sub Saharan African development as well as to collaborate for their own mutual benefits.

- The updated Aquaculture Compendium will be made available to all registered members of the Sarnissa network.

Key New Knowledge Expected

- SARNISSA will commission a portfolio of 20 + new African aquaculture case studies in English and

- French which will be user friendly, informative publications covering a wide range of lesson learning topics, e.g. Individual Commercial African fish farms, Community level aquaculture development, History and experiences from specific research and development projects, Market based studies , national aquaculture strategy plans, and others.

- 10 in country aquaculture reviews including past history and policy level.

- An African aquaculture policy level summary review and resulting policy briefs developed through online e - fora and the above reviews

- An S Asian study tour for 3 African partners (individuals) visiting and viewing different sectors of aquaculture in Thailand, Nepal and Bangladesh over a one month period – Outputs from which will include 3 analytical reports and 3 videos showcasing aquaculture in each of the three countries

- SARNISSA will produce a series of other short videos on different African aquaculture related topics

- SARNISSA will produce an African aquaculture Funding Guide and Review to help members identify funding sources, write constructive proposals and then submit to be successful.

- SARNISSA will produce Guideline Reviews for the Development of both African and European Small to Medium Size Enterprises SMEs to become involved in African Aquaculture

- SARNISSA will update the online Aquaculture Compendium with new and previous African aquaculture publications. It will also develop the AC into a new more user friendly format.

- Finally and perhaps the key driver to keep SARNISSA developing and growing will be the formation of the list database of all the individuals who firstly register and join the network, and then across borders, languages and specialist areas begin to communicate, share information and contacts and then collaborate with each other. The SARNISSA members' database will be searchable by different contact information including the specialist areas these people work in. This will then allow SARNISSA to help encourage specific user groups e.g. tilapia fish farmers, fish health specialists, aquaculture equipment suppliers, nutrition researchers and commercial feed producers etc to firstly get to know each other and then in some cases form mutually beneficial collaborations.

Potential Impacts

Networking

As of July 2010 SARNISSA has now been running 2 and a half years. It now has:

- Over 1500 registered members from 43 African countries and 49 other international countries

- All of these members are joined together by two African aquaculture email discussion fora - English and French – which average over 50 new messages per week. There are lively daily exchanges and discussions.

- And also by two interactive SARNISSA websites - www.sarnissa.org – where you will find all of the outputs, publications, etc listed above. Also SARNISSA is now on Facebook with regular new daily messages. The www.sarnissa.org website now averages over 3,000 new hits per month with the top ten countries (individuals) accessing the site coming from: UK, Nigeria, Cote D'Ivoire, France, South Africa, Kenya, Ghana, India, Uganda, Malaysia.

- The SARNISSA Facebook site now (July 2010) has 470 signed up members, averages 3 new postings each day and has 450 + visits per week.

- SARNISSA has been recognised by and works together with FAO, AU, NEPAD, NORAD, GTZ, DFID and World Bank amongst many other organisations.

- Who will/ is already benefitting from SARNISSA: Aquaculture researchers, fish farmers, shellfish farmers, other aquatic animal/producers/ hatchery sector across Africa, Government (Policy, Admin , Research , Extension), NGOs, Markets, students, potential investors, entrepreneurs, commercial equipment and input suppliers, feed companies, credit institutions and banks, librarians, IT specialists, fish health and veterinarians, sociologists, geographers, nutritionists, irrigation specialists, water engineers, donor and funding organisations, processors, post harvest specialists and many others…

Related Publications/Projects

For project publications, please got to : http://www.sarnissa.org/tiki-index.php?page=SARNISSA++Project+Publications Related projects include: SEAT, PAPUSSA, Aquashops, Tilapia Scotland