Belt & Road Forum for International Freshwater Fishery Industry Innovation（2022）

Background

Aquaculture technology innovation plays a catalytic role in transforming aqua-food systems and accelerating progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Innovated technologies and system provide a range of solutions that can increase aquaculture productivity and efficiency, enhance farmers' access to rural services (e.g., information, advisory, business development, and financial services), and improve decision and policymaking processes. For example, as seen from the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, digitization technologies can open new markets through digital marketplaces and e-commerce to reach the last mile.

Belt & Road countries is experiencing the fastest population growth, employment and food security should be on the top concern for the people in the region. According to the Global Food Security and Nutrition Status issued by UN (2022), there are 800 million people suffering starvation in 2021, increased by 150 million since the beginning of Covid-19. Obviously, the COVID-19 pandemic made the situation much worse.

Nevertheless, the COVID-19 pandemic pushed the aquaculture industry to innovate even faster. In responding to the challenges posed by the pandemic, many young agripreneurs in Africa have explored innovative ways of adapting their businesses to the changing market conditions (FAO, 2020). But progress is uneven in geographic and socio-economic terms and in many areas, people in some regions have a lower access to the innovated technologies and concepts. There remain several barriers to new concepts adoption in most rural areas of the Belt & Road countries, such as infrastructure, affordability, and literacy and skills. Removal of these barriers is crucial to leverage new technologies' potential for achieving the SDGs. It is important to address persisting barriers such as the lack of new skills and customized technical solutions that can be easily up taken by relevant stakeholders.

Technology innovation is essential to the future workforce in the aquaculture. It is the strong guarantee for better productivity, better nutrition, better environment and better life. Governments and the private sectors can work together to create more opportunities for the innovated technologies demonstration and extension through policy support, education programs, capacity building and financial assistance.

Objectives and expected outputs

The primary objective of this forum aims to establish an exchange platform to policymakers, fishery extension officers, researchers and agripreneurs in Belt & Road countries on promoting freshwater fishery industry development through technology innovation. The forum will focus on the innovation and development of fishery biotech, breeding, culture models, digitization, industrialization and particularly address the issue how to find a best solution for the freshwater industry development in related countries. As a result, the forum will inform the policymaking in Belt & Road countries as well as planning and implementation of relevant programmes and projects at global, regional and national levels.

Through intensive knowledge exchange and dialogue among presenters and participants, the forum will:

- Identify, document and exchange experiences and lessons learned on promoting aquaculture technology innovation in Belt & Road Countries, including relevant policy frameworks and operational mechanisms as well as good practices;
- Present China's technical expertise in the areas of aquaculture innovation introducing experiences in biotech progress, breeding system development, development models upgrading and industrialization;
- Facilitate experience sharing and innovative thinking on aquaculture technology-enabled industry

development and management among different sectors in developing countries and China; and

- Develop concrete ideas and action points to recommend policymaking and planning of aquaculture development programmes, projects and activities that will contribute to productivity enhancement and livelihoods support.

Major activities

As the FAO Reference Center for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Research and Training and NACA Asia-Pacific Regional Lead Center, FFRC will conduct this event on Aug 16 with the support of FAO, NACA and MARA of China.

FFRC will invite relevant experts from FAO, NACA, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Chinese Academy of Engineering and related Universities to give presentations on innovated aquaculture technologies and system, and organize fishery officials, experts and entrepreneurs from various countries to make presentations and participate in the virtual exchanges and discussions.

Guidance Institutions

- Department of International Cooperation, MARA
- Fishery Administration, MARA
- Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences

Organizers

- Freshwater Fisheries Research Center, Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences (FFRC)
- China-Africa Joint Center for Modern Agrotechnology Exchange, Demonstration and Training
- FAO Reference Center on Aquaculture and Inland Fisheries Research and Training
- Innovation Academy of “Belt and Road” International Freshwater Fishery Industry
- Regional Leading Centre for Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific（NACA）

Participation

The forum will be conducted at 14:30-18:30 (GMT +8) on 16 August, through Zoom meeting; coordinator will contact all participants according to the provided cell (Whatsapp) number and email; more detailed information will be updated later. The online event will invite representatives of governments, aquaculture extension agencies, academia and research institutions, as well as agripreneurs organizations with nominations from respective authorities. The planned participation is approximately 200-300 participants from Belt & Road countries.

Selection criteria:

- Candidates should be representatives of stakeholder groups including governments, fishery extension agencies, academia and research institutions, agribusiness organizations as well as the private sectors.
- Representatives and staff from international organizations that are collaborating with FAO, NACA and FFRC in agricultural development activities will also be eligible;
- Candidates should specifically be involved in aquaculture development, like administration, scientific research, technology extension and business operation in their duty work;
- Candidates have to be strongly motivated to promoted aquaculture development through technology innovation and be able to apply and disseminate this knowledge in their respective work;
- Participants have fluent English in reading, spoken and listening, as the workshop language is instructed in English. But the simultaneous interpretation will be still provided.

Registration & operation method

Participants are required to register through the below link before 14 August:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfncLsbL0Rvgq4t7oTYA8bbYz7_KfXH9Lju9Y7uHiRTFR4rDA/viewform?usp=pp_url

And the scanned registration form together with word version should be submitted through the link and copied to the contact mails as follows.

Contact information

Name: Zhong Chunyi (Mimi); Zhang Xizhao(Cesar); Ye Wei (Mike)
Organization: Freshwater Fisheries Research Center, Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences (FFRC)
Postal address: No. 9 East Shanshui Road, Wuxi City, Jiangsu Province, P.R. China
Tel: +86 133 015 18090,+86 17768347206, +86 159 618 00794
mail: zhongchunyi@ffrc.cn; yewei@ffrc.cn; zhangxizhao@ffrc.cn; ffrcmichael@gmail.com

Provisional agenda

Aug 16, 2022

Zoom Link：https://zoom.us/j/85381711819?pwd=QTZSU0s3SE9GWWdlU0dqUmphL1Y2UT09

Meeting ID：853 8171 1819

Pass-code：20220816 (Participants will be informed through the emails about the possible change of the Meeting ID)

Time (GMT +8)	Activity	Guests/Presenters
14:30-15:00	**Remarks at the opening ceremony：** 1. Department of International Cooperation, MARA 2. Bureau of Fisheries, MARA 3. CAFS 4. WFP 5. FAO 6. NACA 7. DGA-MAFF 8. FFRC	1. DG/DDG 2. DG/DDG 3. DG/DDG 4. TBD 5. TBD 6. Dr. Huang Jie, DG 7. DG 8. Dr. Xu Pao, DG
Section I：Forum Keynote Reports **Chairman：A**		
15:00-15:15	Innovation and progress of China's cultured fish breeding industry	Yellow River Fishery Research Institute, CAFS -Academician Chen Songlin
15:15-15:30	Fishery Science and Technology Research and International Cooperation	Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences -Dr. Liu Yingjie -Vice President/Professor

15:30-15:45	The Contribution of Chinese Aquaculture Innovation to the South-south Cooperation	Freshwater Fisheries Research Center, Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences -Dr. Xu Pao- Director General/Professor
15:45-16:00	Digital technology innovation and digital fishery development	China Agricultural University -Dr. Li Daoliang - Professor/Chairman
16:00-16:15	Integrated Fishery-Solar Low-carbon Production System	Tongwei Group
Section II：Special Reports from International Organizations **Chairman：B**		
16:15-16:30	Technological innovation promotes global food security and stability	United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) China Office
16:30-16:45	Status quo and development trend of global fishery science and technology innovation	FAO Dr. Yuan Xinhua - Senior Officer
16:45-17:00	Prospects for sustainable development of aquaculture in Southeast Asia	World Fisheries Center - Essam Yassin Mohammed/Director General
17:00-17:15	Current Situation and Future Development Direction of Aquaculture Science and Technology in Central and Eastern Europe	Network of Aquaculture Centres in Central and Eastern Europe (NACEE) -Laszlo Varadi/Chairman
Section II: Special Reports from Oversea Fishery Administration and Research Institutions **Chairman：C**		
17:15-17:30	Aquaculture Technology Innovation in Indonesia	DGA-MAFF
17:30-17:45	Development and technological progress of aquaculture models in Kenya	National Fisheries Service, Kenya Mr. Patrice Jilani, Senior Fishery Officer
17:45-18:00	Sustainable and efficient automated tilapia farming technology development in Egypt	Egyptian National Institute of Oceanology and Fisheries -Dr. Ahmed Aboseif
18:00-18:30	Summary	