



Global Conference on Aquaculture 2010

Farming the waters for People and Food

22-25 September 2010, Phuket, Thailand

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**Global Conference
on
Aquaculture 2010**


**Summary and Recommendations :
Sector Management and
Governance in Aquaculture**

22–25 September 2010, Phuket, Thailand



Three Panels in the Theme

- I. Improving aquaculture governance: What is the status and Who is responsible for What?**
- II. Aquaculture governance and socio-economic growth and development: enabling policies and partnerships for improved benefits.**
- III. Aquaculture governance: investment, insurance and risk management for Aquaculture development.**



I. Improving Aquaculture Governance: What is the status and Who is responsible for What?

1. The Panel:

- a. underlined the importance of stakeholder participation in decision-making processes to advance aquaculture agenda, and
- b. underscored the need to promote participatory governance through promotion of public-private partnerships while ensuring coordination of stakeholder interventions including those of NGOs.



I. Improving Aquaculture Governance: What is the status and Who is responsible for What?

2. The Panel:

- a. recognized the importance of good governance in aquaculture development;
- b. noted that insufficient information inhibits efforts to formulate adequate governance models,
- c. recommended that FAO accelerates its efforts to prepare “Guidelines for Aquaculture Governance” which contain, inter-alia, information on decision making under scarce-information situations and
- e. expressed the need to document cost-effective means of enforcing regulations, a burning issue in developing countries.



I. Improving Aquaculture Governance: What is the status and Who is responsible for What?

3. The Panel:

a. recognized the value of sharing national experiences in Aquaculture governance and noted the urgent need for:

1. countries, NGOs and development agencies and/or organizations, to collect and disseminate positive and negative experiences on the ground including co-management, conflicts resolution, self-regulation, integrated coastal zone management, etc..
2. countries to improve their national institutional capacity and consider creating lead agencies to oversee and coordinate the development of the sector.



II. Aquaculture governance and socio-economic growth and Development: enabling policies and partnerships for improved benefits

1. The Panel:

- a. underlined the importance of quantitative socio-economic impacts of aquaculture in obtaining political and financial supports which are required for adequate development of the sector;
- b. noted the limited number of case studies in this area, and recommended to:
- c. conduct a systematic review of Aquaculture's socio-economic impacts from a global perspective and
- d. accelerate the development of a user-friendly model to quantify these impacts.



II. Aquaculture governance and socio-economic growth and Development: enabling policies and partnerships for improved benefits

2. The Panel:

- a. noted the need for assessing the level of achievement of expectations of the Phuket Declaration up to the next Aquaculture forum and
- b. emphasized the need to develop quantifiable and other indicators for this purpose and
- c. indicated that the documentation of work done in similar disciplines could be a departure point.



II. Aquaculture governance and socio-economic growth and Development: enabling policies and partnerships for improved benefits

3. The Panel:

- a. recognized the importance of improving aquaculture's contribution to the socio-economic wellbeing of poor communities, especially in rural areas,
- b. observed the various means of achieving this goal and noted that limited financial resources remained one of the main hindrances to this improvement and
- c. recommended that practical ways and means be found to allow resource-limited farmers to access credit to cover their investment and/or operating needs.



III. Aquaculture governance: investment, insurance and risk management for Aquaculture development.

1. The Panel:

- a. underlined the need to increase and make investment more productive in order to make the growth of aquaculture production sustainable, and
- b. recommended that countries increase investment in:
 1. Research and Development to support greater intensification of aquaculture production; and in
 2. Human capacity development.



III. Aquaculture governance: investment, insurance and risk management for Aquaculture development.

2. The Panel:

- a. was concerned that the limited access to insurance by small- and medium-scale farmers threatens the development of the sector, and
- b. recommended that, countries adopt a multi-pronged policy approach in order to reduce risks and uncertainty in aquaculture, which will require to think of measures of:
 1. extending insurance coverage such as the Asian Aquaculture Insurance Pool, and
 2. developing techniques that lower risks while increasing the knowledge available to aquaculture farmers.



III. Aquaculture governance: investment, insurance and risk management for Aquaculture development.

2. The Panel:

In this regard,

- the Panel further emphasized the need for a concerted action in gathering and disseminating success and failure stories in aquaculture risk management and aquaculture insurance schemes that address the needs of small-scale and medium-scale farmers.



III. Aquaculture governance: investment, insurance and risk management for Aquaculture development.

3. The Panel:

- a. was aware of the urgent need to help small-and medium-scale farmers to access credit;
- b. reiterated that, because individual risks incurred in investing is higher than the collective risk, government subsidies for aquaculture investment are justified from an economic point of view and;
- c. their use to assisting this category of farmers to reduce insurance costs could be considered.



III. Aquaculture governance: investment, insurance and risk management for Aquaculture development.

3. The Panel:

However, the Panel recommended that:

- a. the role of international and regional development banks in terms of supporting the sustainable development of the aquaculture sector needs to be strengthened as the access to credit, micro-finance and insurance services could be greatly increased by making funds available for these services; and
- b. noted that the establishment and provision of these services could benefit from the guidelines produced by FAO and others in the last decade.



III. Aquaculture governance: investment, insurance and risk management for Aquaculture development.

4. The Panel:

- a. noted the extent of difficulty in insuring farmers against all risks, especially under very-limited-resource conditions, called on farmers to assess risks and set priorities when seeking an insurance service; and
- b. recommended that risk management tools in Aquaculture, which address a large variety of risks (production infrastructure, production, economic, social, environmental, pathogens, food safety and genetics) and have been developed recently, be promoted and their application widely encouraged.



