

## Press Kit WorldFish Africa Asia BlueTech Superhighway (AABS) *Delivering a triple win for nature, people, and climate*

### WorldFish at Ocean Innovation Conference 2024 Cape Town, South Africa

Event: World Cafe: Scaling innovations to transform aquatic food systems in Africa

Date: 20 February 2024

Time: 15:45-17:15 (GMT+2)

Location: The Avenue Conference and Events Centre, V&A Waterfront, Cape Town, South Africa

### Context

WorldFish has piloted innovations in countries in Asia and Africa that appear promising to transform the aquatic food systems in the countries of the project. To achieve impact at scale, we are implementing the Asia-Africa BlueTech Superhighway project (AABS), funded by the UK Government under its Climate and Ocean Adaptation and Sustainable Transition (COAST) program of the Blue Planet Fund. The project aims to achieve an increased use of innovations beyond the group involved in its initial design and testing. This is a process identified as the scaling of innovations.

In this framework, WorldFish and its partners have an interest, both academic and professional, in discussing current experiences of scaling innovations in the area of aquatic food systems. On Tuesday, 20 February 2024, in the afternoon (GMT+2), at the 5th Ocean Innovation Africa Summit in Cape Town, South Africa, WorldFish is hosting a World Cafe on 'Scaling innovations to transform aquatic food systems in Africa.'

This self-governing workshop will start with a presentation on the four innovation case studies, followed by an open space for stakeholders and participants to discuss insights, experiences, opportunities, challenges, ideation, and shared knowledge of scaling innovations for aquatic food systems. The lessons and recommendations gathered will shape future project proposals accompanied by grant offers as part of this well-resourced 7-year project.

### Workshop Agenda

Welcome and Introduction to the Asia-Africa BlueTech Superhighway project (AABS) -

- Alexander Tilley, Senior Scientist, Small-Scale Fisheries, WorldFish & Leader, Work Package 1, Asia-Africa BlueTech Superhighway

- Breakout group discussions on how to scale innovations in the areas of:
  - Bridging data gaps in small-scale aquatic food systems
  - Integrated seawater farming for Africa
  - Tackling aquatic food loss and waste
  - Incentive-based coastal fisheries management
- Wrap-up: Lessons and Recommendations

### Overview of the Asia-Africa BlueTech Superhighway (AABS)

[WorldFish's Asia-Africa BlueTech Superhighway \(AABS\) project](#) is a pioneering initiative aimed at transforming aquatic food systems across Africa and Asia through South-South collaboration. This seven-year program, funded by the UK's Climate and Ocean Adaptation and Sustainable Transition (COAST) program of the Blue Planet Fund, seeks to address the critical challenges faced by coastal communities and habitats that are essential for providing sustainable aquatic foods but are threatened by climate change, lack of access to technology, and inadequate policy environments.

### Key Highlights and Objectives

To unlock the potential of sustainable aquatic food systems for people, planet, and shared prosperity by leveraging South-South collaboration to adapt and scale evidence-based models for delivering impact.

### Duration

July 2023 - June 2030 with a budget of £45 million.

### Geographical Focus

The project will be implemented in Bangladesh, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Tanzania during its first phase, targeting over 300,000 primary beneficiaries, with at least 50% being women and youth, and over 400,000 secondary beneficiaries.

### Core Areas

The project is structured around four synergistic work packages:

1. Bridging data gaps in small-scale aquatic food systems.
2. Integrated seawater farming for Africa.
3. Tackling aquatic food loss and waste.
4. Incentive-based coastal fisheries management.

### Knowledge Exchange Platform

A forum for stakeholders across the target countries to share challenges and solutions, co-create actionable knowledge products, and foster innovation in a country-led environment.

### Impact and Innovation

WorldFish's AABS is designed to drive sustainable small-scale fisheries and aquaculture in vulnerable coastal communities through knowledge sharing and co-learning. The project emphasizes engaging all actors in the knowledge exchange process to ensure that the implementation and adoption of innovations are country-led and effectively adapted to local contexts for sustainable gains. Knowledge sharing catalyzes connecting stakeholders, offering insights and potential solutions to improve livelihoods, nutrition, and food security sustainably.

### Vision for Sustainable Development

AABS aligns with six Sustainable Development Goals and contributes to the targets set within the Paris Agreement and the African Union's priorities on food systems transformation. It represents a significant step towards addressing the enormous challenge of feeding a projected 9.8 billion people by 2050, amidst the increasing threats of climate change.

### Media Coverage

[UK pledges nearly £75 million to marine conservation projects](#)

[UK and CGIAR partner with WorldFish to launch Asia-Africa BlueTech Superhighway](#)

[Asia-Africa "BlueTech Superhighway" launched for fisheries and aquaculture](#)

[WorldFish to develop a South-South collaboration platform for the Blue Food Revolution](#)

### Further Reading

[The EU would be wise to invest in African aquaculture and fisheries](#)

[Harnessing South-South Collaboration: The Africa—Asia BlueTech Superhighway Takes Off](#)

[How South-South knowledge exchange can connect the dots for an inclusive blue food revolution](#)

[Is data transparency the missing bait for Kenyan fishermen?](#)

### Photos

Photos related to AABS work can be downloaded [HERE](#)

### Media Contact

David Wardell

d.wardell@cgiar.org