

## US investment to boost the Bangladesh aquaculture sector

The international research organization, WorldFish, has today launched calls for proposals from companies and organizations involved in the Bangladesh aquaculture sector to apply for grants from a new source; the Bangladesh Aquaculture and Nutrition Activity, supported by the US government's global hunger and food security initiative, Feed the Future.

The new Activity is focused on sustaining inclusive growth of aquaculture in the Feed the Future Zone of Influence (ZOI), comprised of 21 districts in south-west Bangladesh. It takes a market system approach with the aim of stimulating co-investment by key market actors providing goods and services to fish farmers in the ZOI. WorldFish plays a facilitating and coordinating role but the interventions will be determined by the companies and organizations themselves.

Chief of Party for the new intervention, Dr Malcolm Dickson explained: 'We are looking for win-win investments; the ideas need to come from the companies or organizations involved in the sector and they must contribute towards the overall objectives for the Bangladesh Aquaculture and Nutrition Activity but ultimately they should result in stronger businesses supplying higher quality goods and services to the sector. This might be high quality fish seed, better feeds, improved transport systems, generic promotion of the sector or improved nutrition information for consumers. We are looking for innovative ideas that will really transform aquaculture in the ZOI over the next 5 years.'

The new Activity follows a 6-year investment by Feed the Future through the Aquaculture for Income and Nutrition project, also implemented by WorldFish. This resulted in significantly increased aquaculture production and increased fish consumption by vulnerable households in the ZOI. Market systems approaches have been applied by a number of projects and donors in Bangladesh for more than a decade and are increasingly favored by USAID as they focus on sustainability from the start.

The calls for proposals can be accessed through the [Bangladesh Aquaculture and Nutrition Activity](#) information page or by sending an email to [wfbaproject@cgiar.org](mailto:wfbaproject@cgiar.org)

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