

Concept Note

AIT Special Session at World Aquaculture Safari 2025

Better Fish, Smarter Farms, Skilled People:

Resilient Aquaculture in Sub-Saharan Africa for Brighter Futures

Aquaculture holds immense potential to transform food systems, livelihoods, and economic development across Sub-Saharan Africa. This Special Session, organized by the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) and supported by the Gates Foundation, explores integrated approaches to resilient aquaculture—focusing on improved genetics, sustainability of the farming systems, and human resources capacity. Through expert presentations and a high-level panel discussion, we will explore the science, systems, and people that are shaping the future of African aquaculture.

Objectives

- Showcase innovations and potentials for the application of improved fish genetics and aquaculture systems tailored to Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Highlight challenges of and resolutions for biosecurity issues and sustainable aquaculture practices.
- Promote inclusive human capital development and participation in aquaculture value chains.
- Facilitate dialogue among researchers, practitioners, and policymakers on the future of African aquaculture.

Expected Outcomes

- Increased awareness of current innovations in African aquaculture.
- Enhanced regional and international collaboration in research, training, and policy.
- Identification of gaps and priorities for future research and investment.
- Strengthened focus on capacity building and inclusion in aquaculture development strategies.

Who Should Attend

- Researchers and academicians in aquaculture and fisheries.
- Government officials and policymakers.
- Aquaculture producers and extension agents.
- NGOs and development practitioners.
- Students and young professionals.
- Donor agencies and private sector stakeholders.

Session Details

- Date & Time:

26 June 2025 | 09:00 AM – 12:20 PM

- Location: xxxxx Meeting Room, Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala, near Entebbe, Uganda.

Draft Agenda – 26 June 2025 (09:00 AM – 12:20 PM)

Time	Activity / Presentation	Speaker / Affiliation
09:00 – 09:05	Welcome and Introduction	Krishna R. Salin, AIT, Thailand
09:05 – 09:10	Setting the Context	Kimberly Churchwell, Gates Foundation, USA
09:10 – 09:30	Keynote Address: Transforming African Aquaculture for the Future	Rohana Subasinghe, FutureFish, UK
09:30 – 09:45	Genetic Improvement in Tilapia and Catfish	Suleiman Isa, Springharvest, Nigeria
09:45 – 10:00	Climate-adaptive feeding practices for small- and medium-scale fish farms in Africa	Brian C Small, University of Idaho, USA
10:00 – 10:15	Skilling Africa's Aquaculture Workforce	Mariam Bakare Oyinate, WAS Student Director, Nigeria
10:15 – 10:30	Role of women networks in African aquaculture	Lovin Kobusingye, AWFishNet, Uganda
10:30 – 10:40	Q&A	
10:40 – 11:00	Refreshment Break	
11:00 – 12:20	Panel Discussion: Pathways to Resilient and Inclusive Aquaculture in Africa	Moderator: Krishna R Salin; Panelists: All speakers