WORLD AQUACULTURE 2026 TANZANIA | WITH AFRAQ26 | SPECIAL SIDE EVENT

Asia–Africa Aquaculture Centre (A3 Centre): Building Partnerships for Sustainable Aquaculture Development

From cooperation to action: practical pathways for African–Asian aquaculture partnerships

FRIDAY, 4 DECEMBER 2026	**14:00–15:40 (EAT)**
Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre (JNICC)	**Session room: [To be updated]**

SESSION CO-CHAIRS Dr. Bernice McLean, Head of Blue Economy Unit, AUDA-NEPAD | Prof. Krishna R. Salin, AIT; Past President, WAS Asia-Pacific Chapter

Session synopsis

Africa's aquaculture sector offers considerable opportunities to improve food and nutrition security, create employment, and support economic development. However, realizing this potential requires more than natural resources. Reliable seed and feed supplies, appropriate technologies, skilled personnel, access to finance, and functioning markets are essential for commercially viable and environmentally sustainable growth.

Aquaculture cooperation between Asia and Africa spans several decades. Asia's extensive experience in aquaculture production, research, education, and enterprise development provides a strong foundation for further collaboration. Effective partnerships must build on African expertise and priorities, adapting successful approaches to local environmental, economic, and social conditions.

The Asia–Africa Aquaculture Centre (A3 Centre) seeks to strengthen these connections, particularly through business-to-business partnerships supported by research institutions, universities, governments, and development organizations. Priority areas include technology development and adaptation, education and practical training, investment, equitable trade, and digital tools that improve farm management, extension services, and market access.

This side event at World Aquaculture 2026 Tanzania will bring together African and Asian stakeholders to share experiences, examine lessons from existing partnerships, and identify opportunities for collaboration. Discussions will consider what has worked, what has constrained progress, and how cooperation can deliver lasting benefits for producers and other aquaculture enterprises, including women, youth, and small-scale operators.

Drawing on programme experiences and South–South cooperation, the session will explore how the World Aquaculture Society and its networks can help connect partners and translate shared interests into practical initiatives. The intended outcome is to identify partnership priorities and next steps that support a productive, inclusive, and sustainable African aquaculture sector.

Session programme

TIME (EAT)	PRESENTATION / AGENDA	PROPOSED RESOURCE PERSON
I OPENING & STRATEGIC PERSPECTIVES | 14:00–14:35		
14:00–14:05	**Welcome and opening remarks**	**Dr. Leila Basti** WAS-APC President-Elect
14:05–14:10	**African blue economy priorities and Asia–Africa aquaculture partnerships**	**Dr. Bernice McLean** AUDA-NEPAD
14:10–14:15	**Partnerships for inclusive aquaculture: A development partner perspective**	**Ms. Kimberly Churchwell** Gates Foundation
14:15–14:25	**The role of WAS in Enhancing Asia/Pacific–Africa Aquaculture South–South collaboration**	**Prof. Peter Britz** Aquaculture Africa Programme Manager
14:25–14:35	**Asia-Africa Aquaculture Centre (A3 Centre): Building partnerships for sustainable aquaculture across Africa**	**Prof. Krishna R. Salin** AIT, Thailand
II INSTITUTIONAL & REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES | 14:35–15:17 | 7 MINUTES EACH		
14:35–14:42	**Development cooperation for sustainable aquaculture: Lessons for Asia–Africa partnerships**	**Dr. Sven Genschick** GIZ
14:42–14:49	**Connecting aquaculture research and innovation across Africa and Asia**	**Dr. David Jeffry** WorldFish
14:49–14:56	**West African aquaculture: Priorities and regional collaboration**	**Dr. Daniel Adjei-Boateng** WAS African Chapter
14:56–15:03	**East African aquaculture: Priority needs and partnership opportunities**	**Dr. Victoria Tarus** WAS-AC, Eastern Africa
15:03–15:10	**Sustainable aquaculture in Tanzania: Priorities and partner opportunities**	**Dr. Nazael A. Madalla** Ministry of Livestock & Fisheries, Tanzania
III MODERATED PANEL & NEXT STEPS | 15:10–15:45		
15:10–15:40	**From dialogue to action: An Asia–Africa aquaculture partnership agenda for 2027**	Moderator: **Dr. Rohana P. Subasinghe** Panel contributors: **Mr. Gavin Johnston**, ACMS, South Africa **Mr. Edward Paul Munaaba**, Uganda **Dr. Gladstone**, Victory Farms, Kenya **Ms. Benter Anyango**, WAS-Africa Student Director
15:40–15:45	**Closing reflections, next steps and group photograph**	**Dr. Bernice McLean** AUDA-NEPAD