



WA26T Special Session

Strengthening Aquaculture Learning and Teaching as Key Strategy for Blue Economy Development *Sustainable knowledge production, knowledge transfer and farmer empowerment*

Date & Location: 3 December 2026, Dar Es Salaam

Target audience: Development partners and practitioners, aquaculture education institutions, training service providers, public sector representatives, policy makers, industry and aquaculture stakeholders.

Session Co-Chair: Dr Joy Alexander, Rhodes University.

Venue: Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre (JNICC)

Time: 09:00 – 2.5 hours

Workshop Concept

Aquaculture development interventions tend to focus on technology transfer as the primary strategy to achieve sectoral growth and transformation, with the required training of the target beneficiaries is usually nested within the intervention. Recent Blue Economy development experiences in Africa indicate that successful aquaculture value chain building requires a primary focus on **human capability development** that is sustained through supporting institutions. This requires a fundamental reorientation in the way that aquaculture development projects are framed, both in terms of objectives and timeframes. The workshop will present principles and practical strategies for strengthening Aquaculture Learning and Teaching to support value chain development both in respect of informal vocational learning for farmers and formal tertiary education for youth about to enter the workplace. Topics will include: *Adult Learning – why we should speak of 'learning' instead of 'training'; Curriculum Development; Knowledge Production and Packaging on the Farm and within a Structured Course*. The lecture will cover key concepts for curriculum design such as learning and teaching, defining learning outcomes, and assessment. Practical guidance and case studies for designing aquaculture teaching, learning and mentorship curricula for farmers will be presented in an interactive and participative way. A keystone practical theme for informal vocation learning will be: *'Meeting the farmer where they at'*, which leads to an understanding farmer needs and then articulating them into measurable outcomes with achievable indicators'. Delegates with experience in aquaculture training, teaching, learning and mentorship are invited to share their experiences.

Draft Agenda

09:00 Welcome and opening statement by GIZ.

09:10 Dr Joy Alexander. Opening lecture on the principles of learning and teaching, adult education, curriculum design and practical applications for aquaculture value chain development.

09:50 Mr Chris Parker, ACMS. Case study of catfish cluster business management capacity upgrading at Eriwe Fish Farm, Nigeria.

10:20 TEA BREAK

10:40 GIZ speaker. Human capability strengthening experiences for aquaculture value chain development in Africa.

11:00 Prof Cliff Jones, Rhodes University. Aquaculture curricula for theoretically empowered and practical graduates.

11:20 Facilitated Interactive Session

To learn more, contribute and for further information, please contact:

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World Aquaculture Tanzania 2026 (WA26T), which is the 5th Annual International Conference and Exposition of World Aquaculture Society and African Chapter of the World Aquaculture Society (AFRAQ2026) is being hosted by the Government of the Republic of Tanzania. The event will take place in Dar es Salaam, TANZANIA, from December 1-4, 2026, at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre (JNICC) - a world class conference and exhibition facility in Tanzania. Since 2022, the WAS has successfully hosted the Annual Aquaculture Africa Conferences (AFRAQs) in Egypt (2022), Zambia (2023), Tunisia (2024) and recently Aquaculture Safari, Uganda (2025). AFRAQs typically attract a diverse group of participants from nearly 100 countries - ranging from aquaculture professionals, producers, researchers, policymakers, industry representatives, development partners, students and various other stakeholders. Nearly 2000 participants are expected at WA26T. The event will feature prominent plenary speakers, cutting-edge research presentations, an exhibition showcasing innovations in the aquaculture sector and much more. Attendees will have the opportunity to network, share knowledge, and collaborate on addressing key challenges and opportunities facing both African landscape and the global aquaculture industry. More information available on <https://was.org/meeting/code/AFRAQ26>.