



SPECIAL SESSION

Bridging the raw material gap: Scaling Sustainable Aquafeeds in Africa

FASA Project Insights on Local Ingredients, Digital Tools and how to meet the aquafeed needs to support the growth of the aquaculture sector in Africa.

SESSION CHAIR *Dr Matthew Owen*

Aquafeed is the largest single cost in aquaculture production and the primary determinant of farm-level profitability, making feed affordability a binding constraint on sector growth, particularly for smallholder farmers. Many small holder farmers and feed millers are the most exposed to rising costs of imported ingredients (fishmeal, soybean meal) amid growing regional demand for affordable animal protein.

The **WorldFish-led, NORAD-funded FASA project**, has sought to address this through research into locally available raw materials as substitutes for conventional feed ingredients, implemented across three countries; Nigeria (CORAF), Zambia (WorldFish), and Kenya (ICIPE) to validate findings across different species, systems, and ingredient profiles.

The session will present the project's scientific work to date, including nutrient requirement studies, nutritional profiling of local raw materials, ingredient digestibility trials in tilapia, and processing methods to improve ingredient quality, alongside the digital tools built from these findings to support feed formulation and uptake at the farm and mill level.

Following this the session's proposed *roundtable discussion* will bring together feed millers, farmers, industry representatives, ingredient manufacturers, government representative and development practitioners to define the research and development still needed to bridge the raw material gap between Africa's aquaculture growth aspirations, and the aquafeed needed to support that growth .

SESSION PROGRAMME

Total duration: 4 hours

I. Project Presentations (2 hrs 15 min — 9 × 15 minutes)

1. FASA Project Overview— *WorldFish*
2. Local Ingredient Scoping— Nigeria — *CORAF*
3. Local Ingredient Scoping— Zambia — *WorldFish Zambia*
4. Local Ingredient Scoping— Kenya — *ICIPE*
5. Nutrient profiling and Ingredient Digestibility— *Worldfish Malaysia*
6. Ingredient improvement and processing in Kenya – *ICIPE*
7. Ingredient improvement and processing in Zambia – *SLU*
8. Ingredient improvement and processing in Nigeria – *SLU*
9. Pathways to Scaling Sustainable Aquafeed Solutions — *IITA (Murat)*

II. Digital Tools Demonstration (30 minutes)

A focus on the digital applications being built as part of the project and their scaling within the target countries. This will include a hands-on demonstration of the project's digital tools, gathering valuable feedback to ensure the tools meet the needs of millers and farmers.

III. Roundtable Discussion (1 hour)

A discussion on the practical steps needed to support aquaculture innovation in sub-Saharan Africa, how the raw material needs for aquaculture expansion in the region might be met, and what further research and development is required. The round table will include a farmers representative, a feed miller, scientist/academic, an aquafeed ingredient supplier and government/extension agent (TBC), thus capturing the full value chain.

IV. Open Q&A and Closing (15 minutes)

Questions are held over from individual presentations and addressed collectively, alongside closing remarks from the Session Chair.

For Further details contact : m.owen@cgiar.org