



Key note speakers

Keynote Speech 1:

The evolution and development of aquaculture in Zambia – from an industry perspective.

Mr. Fisho Patrick Mwale

Chairman of the Aquaculture Development Association of Zambia (ADAZ); Entrepreneur, Investment Adviser and Civic Leader.

November 14th at 09:20 – 09:50am

The topic at hand presents an opportunity to share practical experience on the history of aquaculture development in Zambia, which can be traced to the late 1950s when the very first commercial ponds were established. The presentation will also touch base on the policy frameworks that have been developed by successive governments over the years, giving rise to different government interventions which have affected the development of the industry.

It is important to note that Zambia is a founding member of the regional bloc, Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA), headquartered in Lusaka (the bloc has a population of 580 million out of its nineteen member countries). The country is estimated to hold 30 to 40 percent of the water resources in the sub-region, which can potentially make it a “fish food basket” if aquaculture is highly developed. It is within this context that we must interrogate the factors which have militated against the development of a viable aquaculture industry to not only reduce poverty but provide employment opportunities, contribute to the GDP, improve export earnings and provide pathways for research and value chain economic activities for the sub-region, given the competitive advantages the country has.

The presentation will further share the valuable lessons on how an emerging private company has survived in a relatively highly competitive environment against cheap imports from the far East, a regulatory policy framework not conducive to commercial fish farming but more suited for capture fisheries. A major constraint in investments in our environment is always affordable capital. What lessons and experiences have been learned, what types of capital can be key drivers in the rapid development of aquaculture in Africa? Importantly, what is required to galvanize the populations of our countries to become major stakeholders in the aquaculture value chain which includes feed and seed production, processing, cold chain facilities, markets both local and international, food safety and security, research and competition from cheap fish imports from the Far East?

Highlights of an industry case study of Yalelo Ltd, based in Siavonga, Lake Kariba, the company was established in 2011, and has become one of Sub-Saharan Africa’s largest integrated fish farming operations. In a space of 10 years, Yalelo Ltd has reached production of 15,000 metric tonnes, and is aiming to increase its capacity, thus contributing immensely to the national fish supplies in Zambia. Yalelo Ltd has also partnered with Aller Aqua Ltd in setting up the largest fish feed company in Zambia (also one of the largest in Africa).



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Mr. Fisho Patrick Mwale has earned the title of Mr Aquaculture in Zambia having co-founded and pioneered the growth of Yalelo Ltd established in 2011. The company, which he Chairs, has become one of the top aquaculture producers in Africa. Since 2014, Mr Mwale has been the Chairperson of the Aquaculture Development Association of Zambia (ADAZ), an association representing the interests of all aquaculture stakeholders in Zambia, especially industry players. In addition, Mr Mwale occupies Board of Directors positions in various other companies in Zambia. He resides in Lusaka, Zambia.

Keynote Speech 2:

Aquatic animal health and the necessity to develop National Aquatic Animal Health Strategies in Africa

Dr. Hang'ombe Bernard Mudenda

Dean: School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Zambia.

November 14th at 09:50 – 10:20am

Africa is currently experiencing massive investment in aquaculture that has led to the growth of the industry on various water bodies. This growth has resulted into disease situations being documented for the first time in various parts of the continent, hence the need for aquatic animal health programme implementation. Aquatic Animal Health is a relatively new field in the broader discipline of Animal Health in Africa. This scenario requires support from various stakeholders nationally and internationally to develop locally driven aquatic animal health strategies. These strategies are meant to prevent the introduction and spread of fish disease pathogens. To respond to this threat internationally, the Food Agriculture Organization (FAO) has developed a progressive management pathway to improve aquaculture biosecurity and address the need for strategic planning that guides and supports countries towards achieving a sustainable aquaculture biosecurity and health management systems. In order to actualize the progressive management pathway, there is need to domesticate some aspects to suit the local environment. This plenary will discuss a situation on how Zambia has localised the progressive management pathway by developing a National Aquatic Animal Health Strategy from international guidelines of the Food Agriculture Organization, World Animal Health Organization, Africa Union and Southern Africa Development Community.



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Dr. Hang'ombe Bernard Mudenda is a Microbiologist and aquatic animal health practitioner working at the University of Zambia, School of Veterinary Medicine where he is actively involved in fish disease diagnosis and prevention. He works closely with the private sector involved in commercial fish farming under the pond and cage culture systems of production. In the public sector, the involvement has been in the drafting of the Zambia National Aquatic Animal Health Strategy and Implementation Plan and setting up of the fish diagnostic Laboratory at the Zambia Aquaculture Research Institute. He has more than 20 years' experience in the area of fish disease diagnosis and documentation.

Internationally, he has been involved in Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome (EUS) diagnosis in Africa and various programs on fish disease prevention with the African Union, Food Agriculture Organization and World Animal Health Organization. Currently the emphasis of his work is on surveillance and monitoring of Tilapia Lake Virus (TiLV), Epizootic Ulcerative Syndrome and control of Streptococcus like infections in farmed tilapia, through characterization of pathogenic species and host responses.