

## CONCEPT NOTE

### COMMERCIAL AQUACULTURE MANAGEMENT COURSE FOR AFRAQ DELEGATES (HALF DAY, FREE)

A critical skills gap in Africa's rapidly growing aquaculture sector is aquaculture business and production management capability. What's needed is farmer empowerment and transformation through aquaculture business education. ACMS staff have wide commercial aquaculture business experience in Africa and have developed aquaculture business education successfully through leveraging its commercial aquaculture and mentorship roots. This has been achieved through its methodology results in East Africa where it has been positively supporting the transformation of emerging tilapia farms business into viable medium size enterprises. To extend the reach and benefit of this kind of commercial aquaculture business education, ACMS, with the support of the Gatsby Foundation, is launching its commercial aquaculture business and production management online course at AFRAQ24. The Foundation Phase of the course will be offered free of charge in a face-to-face format for delegates to the conference.

### WHO IS ACMS?

ACMS is a well-established commercialization development partner to many fish farms in the tropical belt of Africa. Through its wide commercial aquaculture sector experience, ACMS identified that the lack of business management skills and experience is a fundamental constraint to growing the aquaculture sector through development opportunities which meet the demand for cultured fish in Africa. As most public sector institutional aquaculture support is focused on fish farming technical support, the ACMS mission is to educate and empower fish farmers to become competitive aquaculture business stakeholders. The ACMS approach is founded on the experience of aquaculture business stakeholders who are mentoring emerging farmers in modern aquaculture production and business management. Over the last decade, ACMS have partnered with 25 emerging farms that have increased their cumulative production by 260% over three years, to over 7 000 tons, with an average improvement in feed conversion efficiency from 1.86 to 1.42 (feed applied to fish weight produced). ACMS has developed and tested their learning materials and methodologies with farmers. These materials and methodologies engage and empower farmers to understand their production and business management process from the water upwards.

### THE ACMS COMMERCIAL AQUACULTURE MANAGEMENT EDUCATION PROGRAMME

The commercial aquaculture course will be available online from January 2025. However, ACMS will deliver an in-person, half-day version for conference delegates at Afraq24 Tunisia. The course is targeted at a range of stakeholders: commercial and emerging farmers, feed company officers, academics/researchers, government/policy makers and extension officers.

**The Learning Outcomes for the half-day foundation course are as follows:**

1. Understand aquaculture management concepts (Feed management, Species/system/site)
2. Describe a range of production techniques (Infrastructure, Handling, Feeding)
3. Explain the purpose of data collection and management (Key Data, Data collection, Data management)
4. Conduct basic calculations to generate production analytics (Growth, Stock loss, FCR, Feed forecasting)
5. Identify and summarize the management of variables affecting FCR

Engaging discussions will form the basis of the interactive learning and teaching methodology of this course. Participants who register for the course will be issued a Certificate of Attendance.

Please register your interest to attend at [belinda@acmsafrica.com](mailto:belinda@acmsafrica.com) or via our website [www.acmsafrica.com](http://www.acmsafrica.com)

## PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

