

The Role of IIFET in Aquaculture and Fisheries Development for Livelihood Enhancement of Rural Communities in Sierra Leone

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Abstract

Sellu Mawundu, Martin Tjipute UNU-FTP Fellow 2011 Correspondence: +354 612 76 75; +232 33 800 827; smawundu@yahoo.com; sellu@hafro.is Sierra Leone is blessed with suitable freshwater resources where freshwater and brackish-water fish species can be cultured. Its shoreline is approximately 560km long with an estimated 4, 837.8km² of wetlands and some 500,000ha of mangrove swamps that fringe the coastline. However, not much of these available natural resources has been put to judicious use. The fisheries sector contributes about 9.4% to the GDP in Sierra Leone. The Inland Freshwater Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector is small and poorly developed. The improvement in fish protein intake and revenue generation for all Sierra Leoneans through enhancement of fisheries productivity hold a lot of potential for upgrading the country to higher levels on the human development index. The rationale behind aquaculture development is to make available good quality fresh fish that will provide affordable fish protein to the poor and fast growing rural population. The role of IIFET among others is the development of strategies for aquaculture expansion and intensification, application of proven technologies to enhance fisheries production, harness potential of available raw materials for sustainable feed production, expand the adoption of integrated small-scale aquaculture as a means of increasing rural productivity and food security and exploit the potential of aquaculture production to contribute to food security programs.

Keywords: