

BLUE FOOD PARTNERSHIP GHANA INITIATIVE

LESSONS LEARNED & GOOD PRACTICES REPORT

2023 - 2024



Blueprint for Change

The Blue Food Partnership (BFP) Ghana Initiative, launched in April 2023, aims to boost sustainable aquaculture in Ghana. It is led by the [World Economic Forum's Friends of Ocean Action](#), with global technical support from FUTUREFISH and the [Chamber of Aquaculture Ghana](#) as the local secretariat. The Initiative developed a collaborative multi-stakeholder partnership platform that identified priority issues and solutions, co-created the BFP Ghana Action Plan aligned with the [Global Sustainable Aquaculture Roadmap \(GSAR\)](#) and formed Task Forces to deliver solutions in the Action Plan, emphasizing private sector leadership in sustainably growing Ghana's aquaculture.

Strategic Collaboration

The BFP Ghana Initiative engaged 159 stakeholders from which a total of 49 champions across the value chain joined the Initiative, facilitating co-creation and knowledge sharing through a collaborative multi-stakeholder partnership platform. They were organized in alignment with the GSAR's four pathways that promote responsible aquaculture development. The platform's success was driven by the diversity of the group: SMEs, prominent industry leaders like Tropo Farms, Volta Breems and Raanan Fish Feed, global aquaculture partners such as Biomar and the Aquaculture Stewardship Council, government, women's associations and youth groups, as well as the research and scientific community. Bringing together their diverse viewpoints led to tangible solutions.

BFP Ghana Action Plan & Task Forces

The Action Plan aims to support the sustainable growth of aquaculture in Ghana by helping aquaculture companies across the value chain to adopt responsible strategies and operations with support from the Initiative's stakeholders. It emphasizes pre-competitive collaboration, translating

goals into actionable steps, and ensuring safer and healthier blue food for human consumption.

The Initiative developed the Action Plan through a comprehensive process, including a landscape analysis, a sector priorities survey, webinars and workshops. Two Task Forces of relevant Initiative members were entrusted with implementing the Action Plan, engaging with stakeholders and developing solutions.

The first Task Force focused on Fish Health and Data Quality Management, aiming to assess needs in terms of data gaps and innovations around fish disease management and facilitating knowledge sharing on data management technologies. A needs assessment, offering valuable insights into how the aquaculture industry addresses and monitors fish disease and suggesting improvements for future prevention was developed by this Task Force.

The second Task Force concentrated on Product Awareness of farmed blue foods, aiming to raise awareness and education on food safety, sustainability, and nutrition among producers, processors, retailers, food service providers, distributors and consumers. This Task Force developed a business and events management plan for an annual Farmed Fish Festival in partnership with industry stakeholders.

To highlight the progress made on the Action Plan and Task Forces, the Initiative members collaborated on the delivery of a milestone event: the Ocean Country Partnership Programme (OCP) One Health Aquaculture Workshop. The Workshop was held on 27 - 28 February 2024 in Accra, Ghana, including industry-led sessions and a Farmed Blue Food Festival to celebrate partnerships and achievements under the OCPP. The Initiative helped develop the One Health Aquaculture community of practice in Ghana, a digital platform of aquaculture stakeholders where the above outputs of the Task Forces will be shared and utilized by the community, thereby, amplifying knowledge sharing.

Lessons Learned & Good Practices

The BFP Ghana Initiative employed diverse strategies to enhance collaboration and sustainability in the aquaculture sector.

First, the Initiative offered valuable insights into collaboration among aquaculture stakeholders. Effective stakeholder engagement required a substantial commitment of time to secure buy-in and cultivate trust to bring important voices to the table and an impressive total of 159 stakeholders were engaged as a result. Increased industry cooperation was driven by an understanding that collective efforts can benefit the entire sector *and* individual businesses simultaneously. Regular networking events connected members, building a sense of community and momentum for action.

Second, the Initiative's tailored approach to engaging with stakeholders online and offline, as well as in individual and group meetings, led to the effective assessment of their needs, interests, and levels of influence. This resulted in a solid selection of 49 relevant members for the multi-stakeholder partnership platform, encompassing a rich range of perspectives and expertise.

Third, this diverse platform fostered nuanced discussions and knowledge sharing, leading to innovative ideas and greater co-ownership of the pre-competitive work.

Additionally, other OCPP country partners, such as the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, contributed to the Initiative's impact.

Fourth, securing government buy-in from the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development and the Fisheries Commission was critical to building credibility and support for the Initiative. The active engagement of these government bodies also helped align the Initiative to formal national goals for the aquaculture sector.

Fifth, choosing the right local partner with an aligned mandate and extensive networks, such as the Chamber of Aquaculture Ghana, was significant to the Initiative's success. With their deep understanding of the landscape and connections, they built the Initiative's platform and delivered on its activities with support and amplification from the World Economic Forum and FUTUREFISH.

Finally, the Initiative leveraged the World Economic Forum's credibility, resources, and global networks to build capacity and enhance local efforts. Overall, the BFP Ghana Initiative advanced collaboration and sustainability in the aquaculture sector within record time in its pilot year. By connecting stakeholders, aligning with industry and national goals, and leveraging global resources, the Initiative successfully brought to life a collective vision, leaving a lasting mark on aquaculture in Ghana.

