Aquatic Foods Initiative

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27th February 2023

Work packages

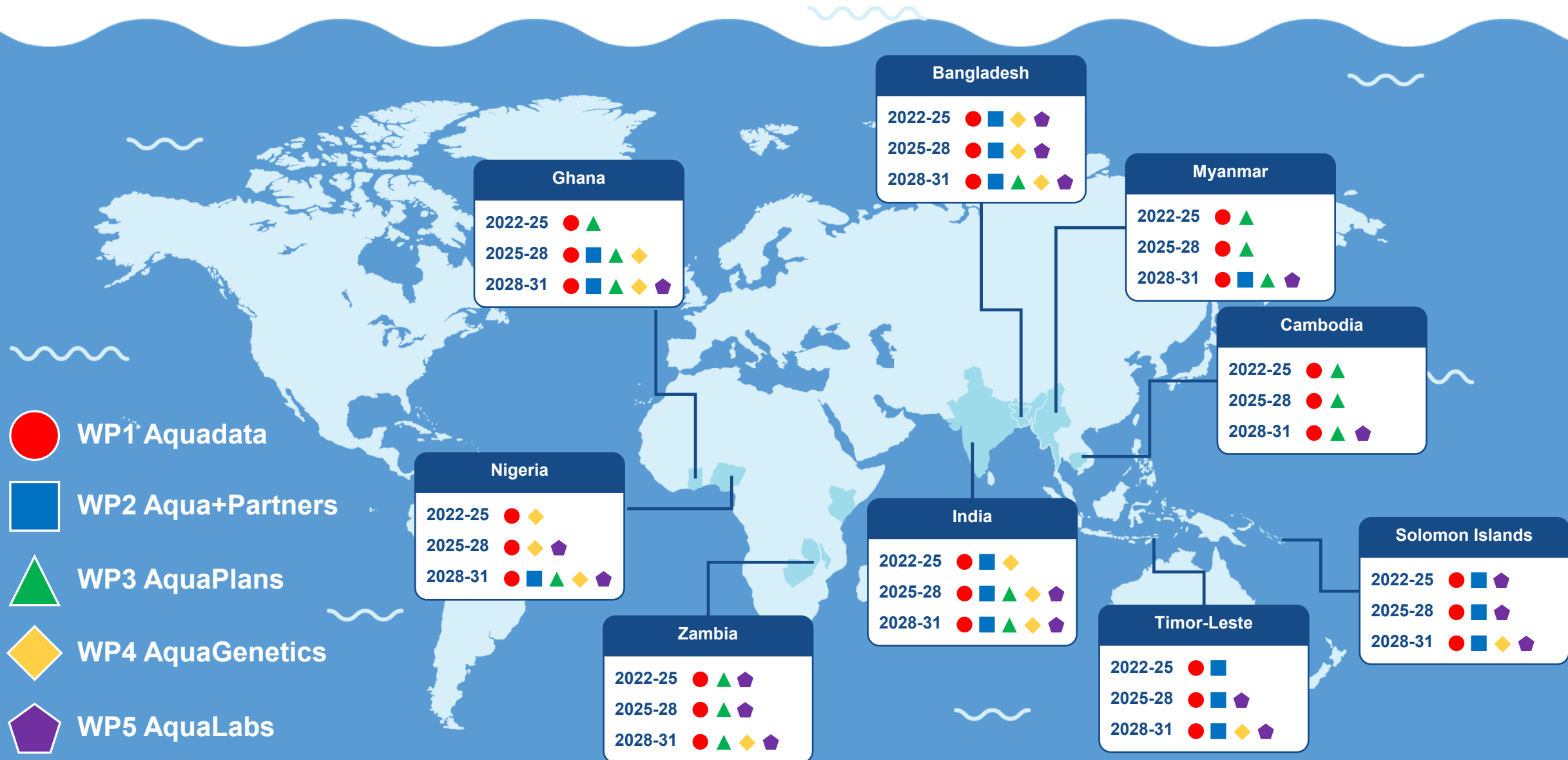INITIATIVE ON
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WP1 AquaData
Data and analytical tools supporting AqFS policies and investments

WP2 Aqua+Partners
Cross-system partnerships to support AqFS actors' inclusion in food system transformations and ocean economy

WP3 AquaPlans
Including AqFS in multi-functional water management plans

WP4 AquaGenetics
Public-private partnerships to scale delivery of genetically-improved fish varieties

WP5 AquaLabs
Platforms to evaluate, scale & accelerate uptake of AqFS innovations

IMPACT AREAS

- Climate adaptation and mitigation
- Environment health and biodiversity
- Gender equality, youth and social inclusion
- Nutrition, health and food security
- Poverty reduction, livelihoods and jobs

Gender inclusion

Reach Benefit Empower Transform

2022 target countries

Legend:
- ● WP1 Aquadata
- ■ WP2 Aqua+Partners
- ▲ WP3 AquaPlans
- ◆ WP4 AquaGenetics
- ⬠ WP5 AquaLabs

Ghana
2022-25	●	▲			
2025-28	●	■	▲	◆	
2028-31	●	■	▲	◆	⬠

Bangladesh
2022-25	●	■	◆	⬠	
2025-28	●	■	◆	⬠	
2028-31	●	■	▲	◆	⬠

Myanmar
2022-25	●	▲			
2025-28	●	▲			
2028-31	●	■	▲	⬠	

Cambodia
2022-25	●	▲	
2025-28	●	▲	
2028-31	●	▲	⬠

Nigeria
2022-25	●	◆			
2025-28	●	◆	⬠		
2028-31	●	■	▲	◆	⬠

India
2022-25	●	■	◆		
2025-28	●	■	▲	◆	⬠
2028-31	●	■	▲	◆	⬠

Zambia
2022-25	●	▲	⬠	
2025-28	●	▲	⬠	
2028-31	●	▲	◆	⬠

Timor-Leste
2022-25	●	■	
2025-28	●	■	⬠
2028-31	●	■	◆	⬠

Solomon Islands
2022-25	●	■	⬠
2025-28	●	■	⬠
2028-31	●	■	◆	⬠

2022 Aquatic Foods Implementation: KEY FACTS

Produced NERLY 150 new knowledge products, **38 peer-reviewed articles.**

CGIAR — **6 initiatives connected**

1 in every 3 participants

28 capacity development events with **1,244 participants**.

23 innovations under development

Activities implemented through **130 partnerships in 8 countries from 4 regions**

7 innovations already in use in 4 countries

Research collaboration among **40 researchers from 26 countries**

10 POLICY CASES reporting a change in the policy and/or regulatory framework in 4 countries

Improved Tilapia transferred to Nigeria

In 2022 a batch of over fifty thousand improved GIFTs was transferred to Nigeria where they are currently reared in the largest tilapia hatchery (Premium Aquaculture Ltd) in Nigeria. These are the first steps in establishing a GIFT-based aquaculture industry in Nigeria.

Generation 3 Rohu Carp grows more than 30% faster than conventional Rohu Strains
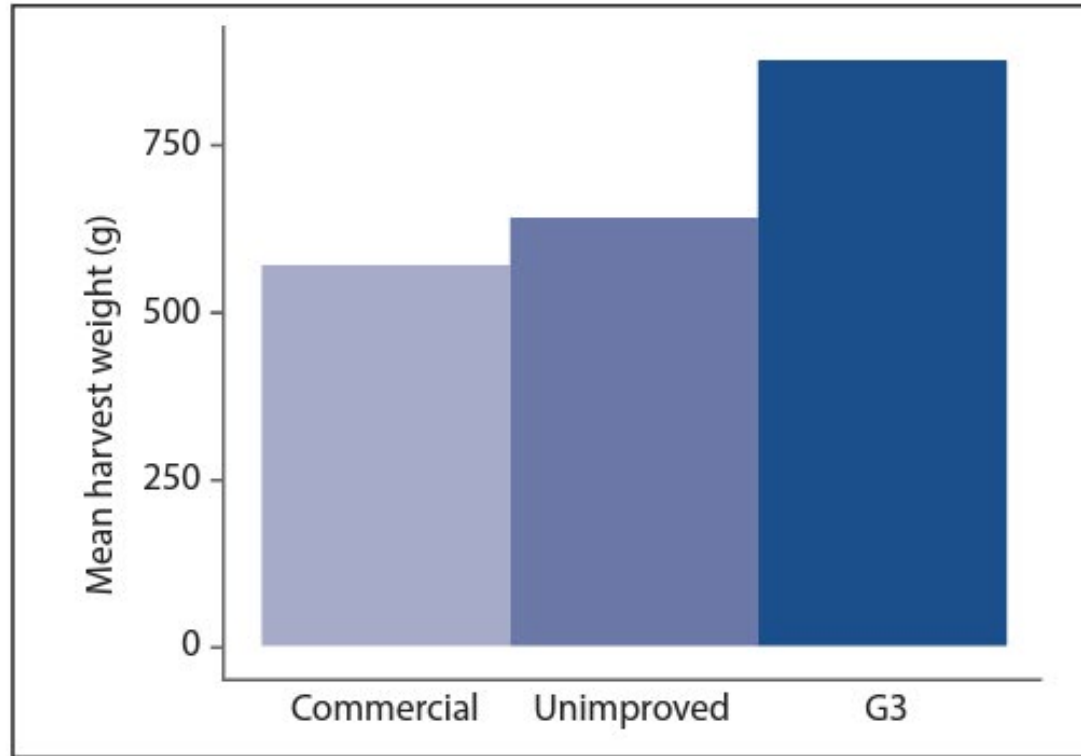
Figure 1. Mean harvest weight for the commercial, unimproved riverine, and genetically improved (G3) rohu strains across 19 farms.

Photo: G3 rohu at the bottom, uimproved riverine rohu in the middle, and commercial rohu at the top, taken from a trial pond.
Photo credit: M Gulam Hussain/Fish Innovation Lab

FishBase: An increasingly valuable resource

- A new study has found that FishBase is one of the most cited sources in the history of scientific research.

- FishBase has an astonishing 700,000 unique monthly users and has also attracted users in more diverse fields beyond its traditional user base.

- Despite being an increasingly valuable resource, FishBase is continually at risk of shutting down due to financial constraints.
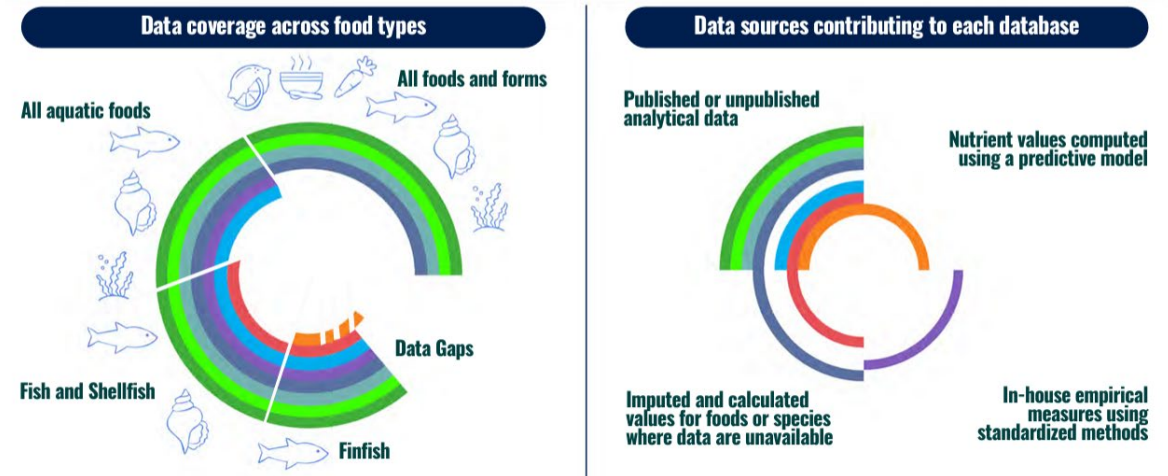
A new strategy to support FishBase and SeaLiFeBase has been discussed and developed.
1) Blockchain, cryptography, and non-fungible tokens (NFTs) could be the means to sustainably fund FishBase.
2) Development of a micro-nutrient module to include a nutrition lens into the database related to catch

Near-real-time digital data systems

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PeskAAS has been adopted by the Government of Timor Leste as the national fisheries monitoring system. Currently, 15,690Km2 of coast are monitored via PeskAAS in Timor-Leste. The PeskAAS dashboard is publicly available and has received 5000 visits from 700 unique visitors from 65 countries in 2022.

A "Nutrients Module" is under development - there is great potential to develop small-scale fisheries to achieve national nutrition.
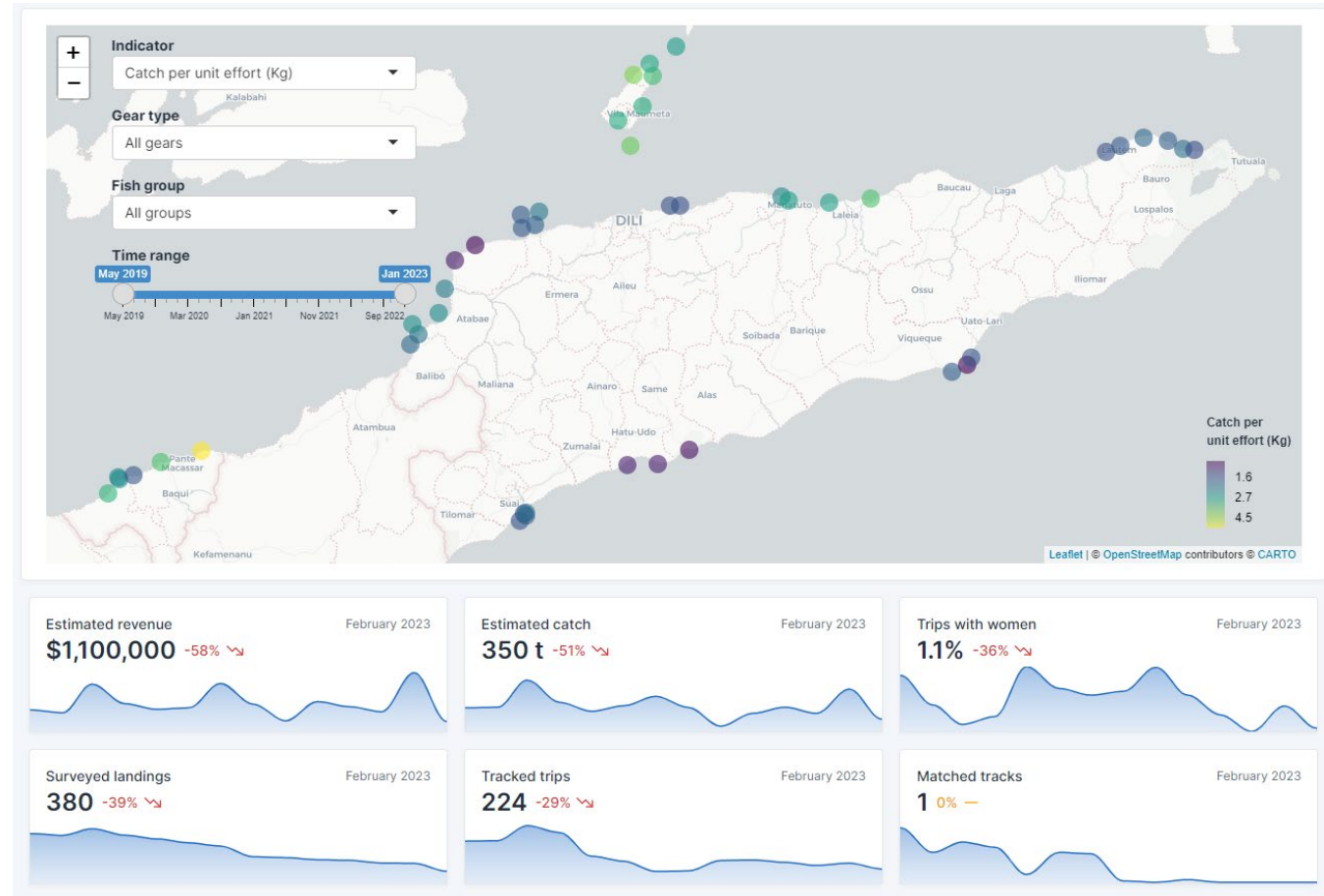
Aquatic Food Systems Characterized

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Partnerships

Key partnerships with private and public sector, and communities, to identify data gaps and data needs.

New Knowledge

Sustainability performance of aquatic food systems measured in 7 countries.

25 datasets available, 9 reports, 11 articles produced

Aquatic Food System Sustainability Index to track progress in multiple dimensions of food system sustainability and resilience

Methodology

A methodology has been co-developed with partners to benchmark sustainability performance of aquatic food systems

Methodology is available and adopted by other users

Digital tools available to use the methodology

Inform decisions

Recommendations and information provided to relevant stakeholders to support informed decisions
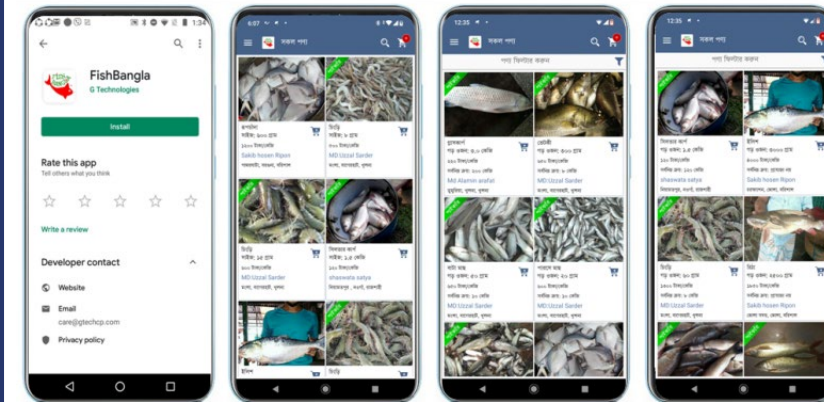
Rice-Fish Suitability Decision Support System, Myanmar

Level of Overall Knowledge

- Five days ToT training in December 2022 on "Rice-Fish Suitability Decision Support System Modelling" to support the capacity development of three government departments under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MOALI)
  - Department of Agriculture (DOA)
  - Department of Planning (DOP)
  - Department of Fisheries (DOF)

- Trainers now transferring their knowledge to the DOA and DOF staff from Ayeyarwady region through four training workshops from January to March 2023.
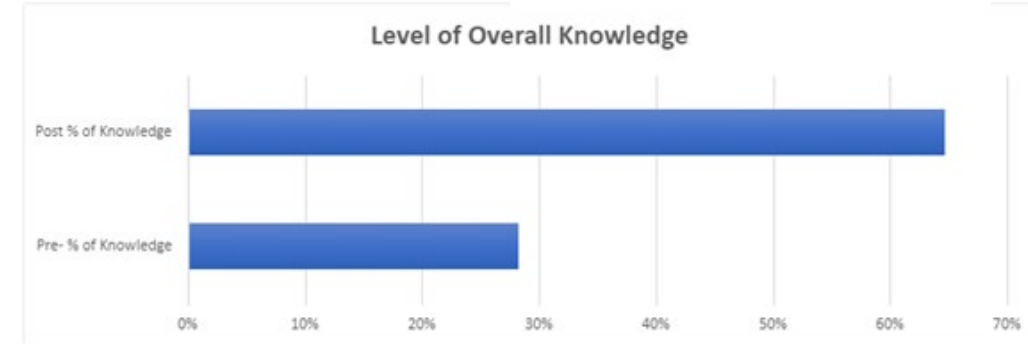
ToT – 13 (6 women)
Trainings – 46 (28 women)

Tackling malnutrition in children through the inclusion of dried small fish powder in their diets

Inclusion of small fish powder in the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) Supplementary Nutrition Program to tackle malnutrition in the State of Assam, India. An estimated 7,000 children aged between 3 to 6 years across 293 Anganwadi centers are expected to benefit from this initiative.

- WorldFish with its partner has conducted series of awareness and demonstration programs to aware the benefits of small fish consumption among children in the 1000 days of life.
- As a result, the Kamrup district administration with WorldFish and partners implement a pilot project that included small fish in the regular meals o 7000 children between age 3 to 6 in 293 anganwadi centres.

Data To Action Portal for Aquatic Foods

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The new Data for Action Portal aims to help tackle the traditional lack of data (or access to it) that affects the transformation of aquatic food systems by being a unified source of data and research on aquatic foods, telling stories of impact and change, and it allows collaborators and scientists to add new data and stories to it.

Thank you