FAO Regional Workshop on Opportunities and Challenges in Economic and Post-harvest Issues Related to Market Access for Fisheries and Aquaculture Products

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Overview of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Papua New Guinea

- Rich Marine Biodiversity: PNG boasts extensive marine resources, including tuna, shrimp, and a variety of finfish, essential for local livelihoods and exports.
- Aquaculture Potential: Emerging sector focusing on shrimp and tilapia production, with potential for growth in sustainable practices
- Existing sea cucumber, tilapia, trout, seaweed on village level

Production and Trade of Papua New Guinea

National Production Highlights

- Tuna Fisheries: PNG is one of the world's largest tuna producers, with substantial exports primarily to Asia and the USA.
- Seafood Processing: Growing processing industry in areas like Madang and Lae, enhancing value addition and employment.
- Niche Products: Unique products such as sea cucumbers and freshwater prawns offer opportunities in niche markets.

Specific Fisheries Products

- Tuna: Significant competitive advantage; however, faces challenges from overfishing and sustainability concerns.
- Shrimp: Potential for niche markets, but bottlenecks exist in farm management and disease control.
- Sea Cucumbers: High-value export item facing regulatory and sustainability issues.

SSF, Women and Youth in Fisheries and Aquaculture

- Women participate in various subsistence farming of marine and freshwater species for consumption and local supply to domestic markets
- The riverine fishery is dominated by women (both the youth and the older generation). But only for domestic trade. Other fisheries mostly involve a household women, youth and men participate

Production, Distribution and Trade – Challenges, Bottlenecks and Barrier

Trade Opportunities

- Export Markets: High demand in international markets, particularly for sustainably sourced tuna and aquaculture products.
- Regional Trade: Potential to strengthen intra-regional trade with neighbouring Pacific Island countries, leveraging geographical proximity.
- Preferential Trade Agreements: Benefiting from agreements like PACER Plus and the EU's SPC market access

Challenges Faced

- Bottlenecks in Export: Infrastructure limitations, including poor transport networks and inadequate cold storage facilities, hinder timely export.
- Compliance with Standards: Meeting international quality and safety standards remains a challenge for small-scale producers.
- Market Access: Difficulty navigating complex regulations and tariffs can limit competitiveness in international markets.

Additional Information Experience with Preferential Agreements

- Existing Agreements: Engaged with various bilateral and multilateral agreements; challenges include understanding non-traditional clauses related to sustainability and labor.
- Private Sector Role: Collaboration between government and private sector essential for compliance; need for capacity building in the private sector.
- Tariff Escalation: Concerns over potential tariff escalation that could affect competitiveness of PNG products in international markets.

Conclusion

- Strategic Focus: Emphasis on sustainable practices, capacity building, and infrastructure development is crucial for enhancing competitiveness.
- Future Opportunities: Leverage unique products and regional trade agreements to boost the aquaculture and fisheries sectors, ensuring long-term sustainability and economic growth

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