Discussion Paper Launch WEBINAR SERIES

The role of aquatic foods in sustainable healthy diets

Friday, 7th May 2:00 pm (CEST)

UN Nutrition

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Gareth Johnstone is the Director General of WorldFish. He has worked with the organization for the last 10 years and is specialized in integrated coastal ecosystem management and sustainable livelihoods in aquatic food systems.

He has 25 years of experience in natural resource management, research, policy and institutional development and has undertaken various assignments in Africa, Asia and Australia. He has a cross-disciplinary academic background, with a Ph.D. from King's College in London on rights-based management, a master's degree in environmental economics and a bachelor's degree in zoology.

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Shakuntala Thilsted is the Global Lead of Nutrition and Public Health at WorldFish. Known for her pioneering work on nutrition-sensitive fisheries and aquaculture in Bangladesh, India, Cambodia and Zambia, she continues to push for game-changers and was recently appointed Vice-Chair of the Advancing Equitable Livelihoods Action Track in the 2021 Food Systems Summit (FSS).

With over 25 years of research experience in food security and nutrition in low-income countries, she was delighted to co-author this new discussion paper. Shakuntala holds a Ph.D. from the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University (now part of the University of Copenhagen) in Denmark and a B.Sc. from the University of the West Indies in Trinidad.

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Molly Ahern joined the Fisheries division at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in 2019 as a food security and nutrition specialist. Prior to that, she worked with WorldFish and Bioversity International on nutrition-sensitive value chains for fish as well as on the development of fish products for nutrition interventions in the first 1000 days of life in Zambia and Malawi.

Molly has also supported nutrition education programs, conducted dietary assessments and participatory rural appraisals of food system methodologies. She holds a masters in human development and food security as well as two bachelor's degrees, including one in international affairs and global health.

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Thanawat Tiensin is the current Chair of the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS). In his capacity as the Permanent Representative of Thailand to the UN Agencies in Rome, he has also served as Chairperson of the Asia Regional Group and a bureau member of various commissions, councils and committees, including the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG).

His work has covered an array of technical areas from agriculture to livestock, food security, food safety and international trade. He holds a Ph.D. in Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics from Utrecht University in the Netherlands and a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from Kasetsart University in Thailand.

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Kefilwe Rhoba Moalosi is a Senior Nutrition and Food Safety specialist and currently the acting Head of the Nutrition Unit at the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD). Among other tasks, she provides technical support to the United Nations Food Systems Summit Dialogues for African Union Member States and Regional Economic Communities.

Her primary focus is on the empowerment of women and smallholder farmers through Home Grown School Feeding and other related initiatives. Kefilwe has a M.Sc. in Food Safety and Quality Management from the University of Greenwich in the U.K. and a bachelor's degree in Food and Nutrition.

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Richard Abila is the Senior Global Technical Specialist for Fisheries and Aquaculture at the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), responsible for technical matters pertaining to IFAD's interventions in fisheries, aquaculture and the blue economy.

Richard has over 30 years of work experience with smallscale fisheries and aquaculture, including freshwater and coastal marine systems. Currently, he provides technical support to 25 IFAD-funded programmes in Africa, Asia and Latin America. He holds a Ph.D. in Fisheries from the University of Hull in the U.K. and an M.Sc. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Nairobi in Kenya.

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Fatiha Terki is the Director and Resident Representative of the World Food Programme (WFP) in Senegal. Prior to this, she served as the Deputy Director of Nutrition Division at WFP headquarters, leading related partnerships such as the SUN Business Network.

Fatiha has 25 years of experience at the United Nations, particularly in Africa, the Middle East and Asia where she held various managerial positions related to nutrition, HIV and sexual and reproductive health. She has also worked for the Global Fund and the International Planned Parenthood Federation, among other organizations. She graduated from the University of Bobigny in France with a D.E.S. in Medical Anthropology.

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Anita Utheim Iversen is a Senior Advisor on aquatic foods, food security and nutrition at the Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries. She also leads the Global Action Network on Sustainable Foods from the Oceans and Inland Waters for Food Security and Nutrition, which is part of the Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016–2025).

Anita holds an M.Sc. in Nutrition, Health and Environment and brings over 20 years of experience in governmental work on food. In particular, she has supported the development of related legislation at the Norwegian Food Safety Authority, followed by 12 years at the Ministry.