

CHAMBER OF AQUACULTURE GHANA



AQUACULTURE INDUSTRY NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY:
THE CASE OF GHANA



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The Chamber of Aquaculture Ghana conducted a survey of fish farmers, fish distributors, aquaculture inputs sellers, fish feed producers, fish health experts, and aquaculture industry regulators to ascertain their most pressing challenges in the aquaculture industry. This report summarizes the key findings of the survey.

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ABOUT THE CHAMBER OF AQUACULTURE GHANA

We present research, facts and policy preferences about the aquaculture sector to persuade government into action. We also advocate for more sustainable production practices and the adoption of modern methods of aquaculture through our partnerships with businesses, academia, host communities of fish farms and relevant state agencies.

AQUACULTURE INDUSTRY NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY: THE CASE OF GHANA

I. Introduction

Ghana's aquaculture industry has undergone significant changes over the last two decades. Until recently, the industry witnessed exponential growth and contributed immensely towards national food security. However certain mounting challenges have hindered its development since, 2017.

2. Survey Audience

A total of 51 major stakeholders in the aquaculture industry in Ghana willingly participated in the survey. In order to grasp a clear understanding of the audience, we started by identifying the focused sectors of the respondents. From this, three key sectors were identified as follows (Figure 1):

- Fish Farmers – 62.7%
- Fish Distributors – 5.9%
- Aquaculture Inputs Sellers – 7.8%

The remaining respondents were classified into three other groups:

- Fish Feed Producers – 3.9%
- Fish Health Experts – 7.8%
- Aquaculture Industry Regulators – 11.8%

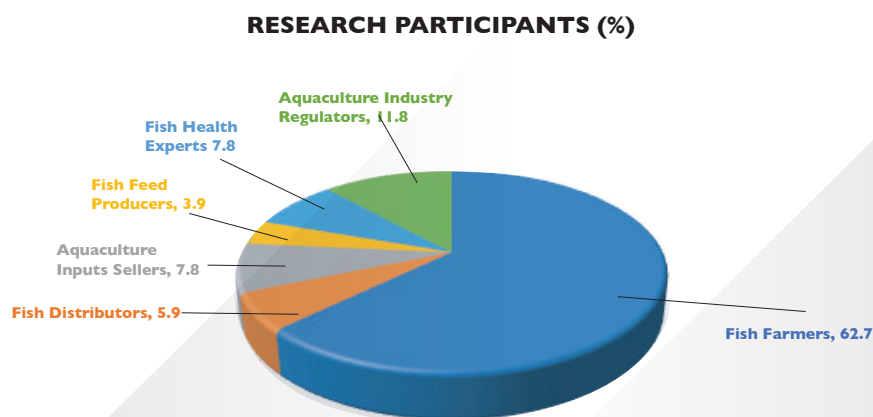


Figure 1: Stakeholder distribution of survey respondents

A FREQUENCY TABLE OF ALL THE STAKEHOLDERS WHO PARTICIPANTS IN THIS STUDY CAN ALSO BE SEEN IN TABLE 1 BELOW:

FREQUENCY TABLE OF RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS (STAKEHOLDERS)

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulate Percent
Valid Fish Farmers	32	62.7	62.7	62.7
Fish Distributors	3	5.9	5.9	68.6
Aquaculture Inpute Sellers	4	7.8	7.8	76.5
Fish Feed Producers	3	5.9	5.9	68.6
Fish Health Experts	3	5.9	5.9	68.6
Aquaculture Industry Regulators	3	5.9	5.9	68.6
Total	51	100.00	100.00	

Table 1: Frequency table of research participants

3. Regional Split of Survey Respondents

In terms of geographic location (Figure 3), majority of our survey respondents were from the Eastern region (33%), Ashanti region (25%), followed by Volta region (20%), Greater-Accra region (20%), Central region (8%), and Upper East region (2%). Figure 2 shows the regional map of Ghana.



Figure 2: Map of Ghana showing the regions

Source: Information Service Department of Ghana (Regions created in the year 2019)

RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS / REGION

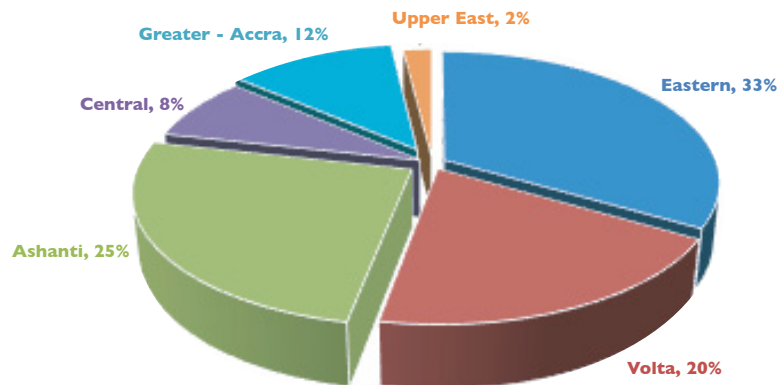


Figure 3: Regional distribution of survey respondents

4. Challenges Facing Stakeholders in the Industry

To identify the critical challenges faced by the aquaculture industry, the Chamber of Aquaculture Ghana launched a survey during the first quarter of 2020 with the main objective of evaluating the key challenges facing the sustainable development of Ghana's aquaculture industry. The responses collected revealed that despite the growing expansion of the aquaculture industry, the stakeholders in the industry are also faced with some challenges which must be brought to the attention of the relevant state agencies responsible and other stakeholders for the necessary actions to be taken. From the survey, the major challenges highlighted by the stakeholders include high rate of diseases, high cost of fish feed, lack of credit facilities, high cost of permit fees, and inadequate aquaculture extension services.

CHALLENGES FACED BY STAKEHOLDERS IN THE AQUACULTURE INDUSTRY IN GHANA (%)

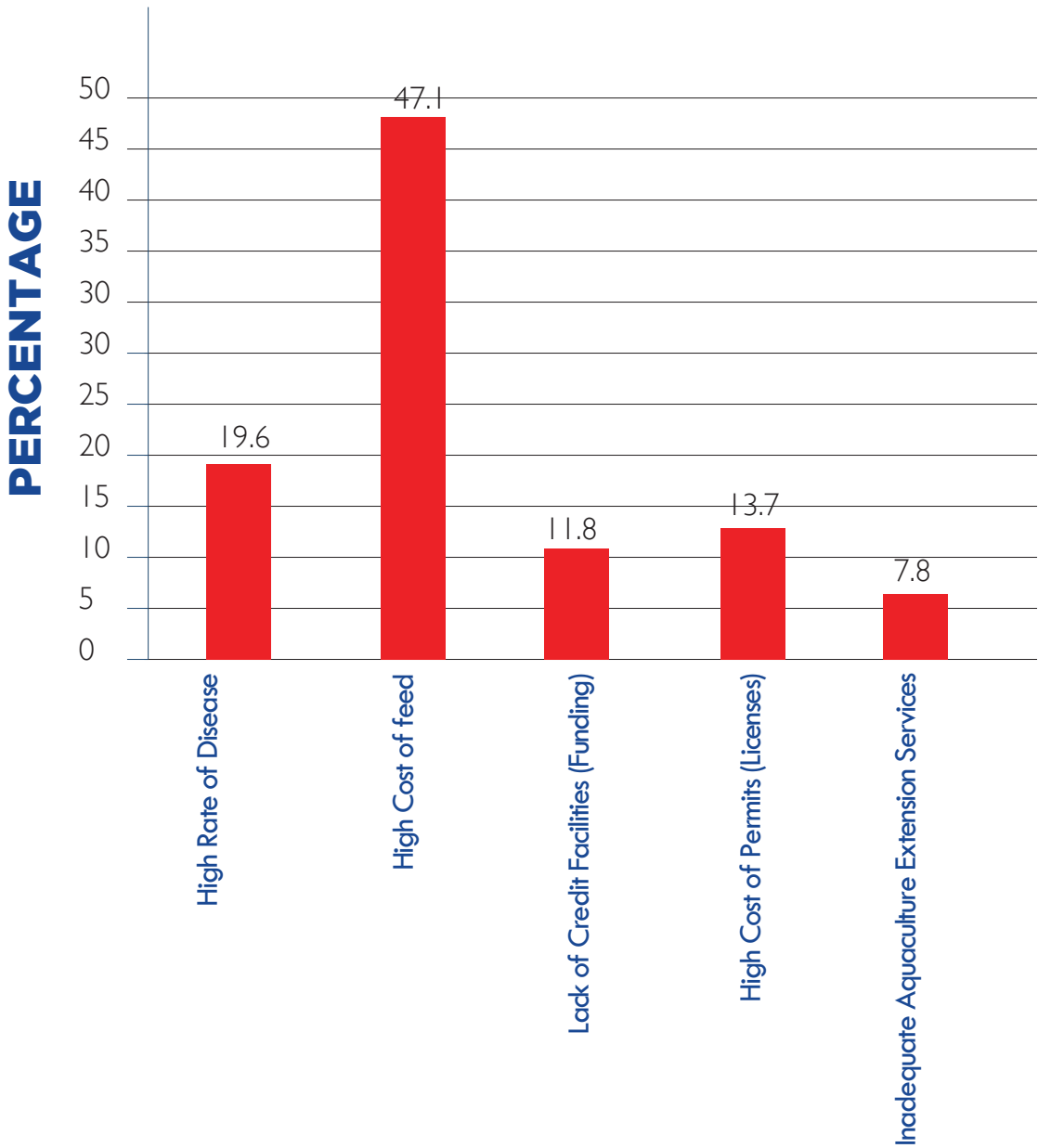


Figure 4: Challenges faced by Stakeholders

From the study, 47.1% (n = 24) of the survey participants complained of the high cost of feed as their most acute problem in the aquaculture industry. This was followed by 19.6% (n = 10) of the respondents who stated that the high rate of diseases was their most critical problem. A total of 13.7% (n = 7) of the research participants cited the high cost of securing permits (licenses) to operate in the aquaculture industry as their biggest challenge. Another 11.8% (n = 6) complained about the lack of credit facilities (funding) which has affected their ability to expand their business. Lastly, 7.8% (n = 4) of the survey respondents cited inadequate aquaculture extension services as their most compelling challenge in the industry.

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Table 2: Frequency table of major challenges faced by stakeholders

5. Recommendations

The sustainability of the aquaculture industry is the responsibility of both industry players and regulators. Strong collaboration is required from all stakeholders in order to achieve a sustainable aquaculture industry. Based on the challenges highlighted by the stakeholders who participated in this study, the Chamber of Aquaculture Ghana in consultation with aquaculture experts and other stakeholders have provided some key recommendations that could help in developing a sustainable aquaculture industry in Ghana.

Below are the key recommendations

1. Regulators must ensure biosecurity protocols are observed at country entry points and in country fish movement.
2. Farmers should engage the services of fish health experts to provide training in areas such as disease prevention and control on farm.
3. Government could assist the aquaculture industry by providing subsidies and tax reliefs or exemptions on feed components to reduce production cost.
4. Industry players should advocate for the establishment of aquaculture fund by the government. This will enable businesses operating in the aquaculture industry to have access to low interest loans to boost fish production.
5. The cost of acquiring the requisite permits could be reduced by the state agencies or even waived to enable all businesses operating in the aquaculture industry to legitimize their activities. Moreover, government could establish a one-stop-shop for the processing of permits instead of the current fragmented process. If all businesses in the industry are properly documented, that will help with tax collection, monitoring, etc.
6. The stakeholders in the aquaculture industry must increase collaboration with the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development, which is mandated by law to provide aquaculture extension services to farmers throughout the country.

6. Conclusions

The aquaculture industry has great potential and could reduce the rate of unemployment in the country if government, development partners and other stakeholders give it the needed attention. This Industry Needs Assessment Survey was an attempt by the Chamber of Aquaculture Ghana to gain insight into the challenges faced by the aquaculture industry. The survey revealed that high cost of fish feed and the high rate of diseases were the most critical challenges facing the industry players. In total, 66.7% (n = 34) of the survey participants cited either high cost of feed or high rate of diseases as their most compelling problem. The Chamber of Aquaculture Ghana has also provided some recommendations which could guide the government of Ghana in the framing of policies to ensure the sustainable development of the aquaculture industry. In addition, this survey report could guide potential investors to make strategic investments in the industry.

Thank you to all who participated in this survey.

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