



# Bumpy or Smooth Road Ahead in Compliance with European Union Regulations? Challenges and Opportunities for Smoked Catfish Export from Nigeria

By

Foluke Areola

O. Oladosu, S. Williams and J. Uhweraka

African Women Fish Processors and Traders (AWfishNET Nigeria)

[Awfishnetnigeria@gmail.com](mailto:Awfishnetnigeria@gmail.com), [foareola@gmail.com](mailto:foareola@gmail.com)

# *African Women Fish Processors and Traders (AWfishNET)*

- AWfishNET Nigeria chapter was midwifed by African Union Inter Bureau of Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) in Tanzania 2016.
- The network is made up of women fish traders and processors, professionals (fishery managers, scientists, accountants, lawyers among others).
- The network promotes empowerment and visibility of women in the fisheries value chain and advocates on important prevailing fisheries issues.

# INTRODUCTION

- Fish and fishery products contribute approximately 10% of total World agricultural exports (FAO, 2017a).
- Growth in fish and fishery products trade is driven by high demand fuelled by growing production.
- In recent years, share of developing countries in global fish trade is growing and declining in developed economies.
- Nigeria was harmonized to export fish and fisheries products to the European Union in 1998.

# INTRODUCTION

- Nigeria exports shrimps, crabs legs; cuttlefish; oysters; periwinkles; **smoked dried catfish**, fish fillets especially soles ; shark fins and oils; and live ornamental fish of indigenous species (FAO, 2007, FAO, 2017b).
- High demand for smoked-dried fish from West Africa consequence upon growing demand by African- Caribbean living in the US and Europe.
- Nigeria is the highest producer of the African mud catfish in the World.

# INTRODUCTION

- Often faced with glut, smoked catfish presents an opportunity to absolve excess production at the domestic level and for export.
- Presently, export of smoked catfish (Siluriformes) to the US is under ban.
- For many catfish farmers, the EU market presents a market opportunity to be harnessed.
- Nigeria is listed in the first category of countries that can export all forms of fish and fishery products caught from the wild to the EU community.

# INTRODUCTION (CONTD.)

- EU Council Directives 2006/88/EC, 2008/53/EC, 2012 /31/EU and 2014/22/EU restricts access to all 'commercial' consignments of cultured fish from exporting countries into the EU without satisfying listed conditions.
- EU Directives (hygiene package) have become some forms of barrier to accessing the EU market by many catfish producers/processors in Nigeria.
- Can the small-scale fish farmers become active players in the export of smoked catfish to the EU?
- **GOAL:** Possible challenges and opportunities for smoked catfish export especially of farm origin from Nigeria to the EU

# INTRODUCTION (CONTD.)

## **Objectives:**

- To discuss the status of the aquaculture industry in Nigeria with reference to cultured catfish .
- To assess Nigeria's readiness for compliance with EU Directives on the placement of aquaculture products in the EU market.
- To recommend to the catfish farmers and fish processors especially those operating on small-scale, ways of overcoming trade barriers to exporting their products to the EU markets.



# METHODOLOGY

Secondary data were reviewed for this study and findings presented in the sequence of the objectives raised.



# FINDINGS (CONTD.)

- **01 To discuss the status of the aquaculture industry in Nigeria with reference to cultured catfish .**
- Nigeria has suitable land (1.7 million ha) and water resources (14 million ha) for aquaculture production enough to be self-sufficient in fish production.
- From 2005, a number of initiatives led to an exponential growth in fish farming in Nigeria:
  - Investment of \$30m in the NEPAD – World Fish Programme for sustainable African Aquaculture (NEPAD FISH FOR ALL SUMMIT/ Presidential Initiative.
  - Birth of CAFFAN a formidable NGO championing the growth of the Catfish industry.

# FINDINGS

- **01 To discuss the status of the aquaculture industry in Nigeria with reference to cultured catfish .**
- Nigeria occupies the enviable position as the highest producer of *Clarias gariepinus* not only in Africa but also globally (Eurofish organisation 2017).
- The African Catfish has more market value and demand for local consumption and potentials for export compared to other species.
- Despite increasing demand, a glut occurred in catfish production (Oyeleye 2007).

# FINDINGS

- **02. To assess Nigeria's readiness for compliance with EU Directives on the placement of aquaculture products in the EU market(Opportunities).**
- The 2016 Aquaculture Regulation was signed by the Honourable Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development making it a legal instrument.
- National Monitoring Residue plan in place and documented for 2016, 2017.
- Ongoing process to accredit the Nigerian Fisheries Laboratory to both local and international standards. One of the requirements is the expansion of the microbiology laboratory. The laboratory has been assessed for ISO 17025 but is waiting to be accredited.

# FINDINGS

02. To assess Nigeria's readiness for compliance with EU Directives on the placement of aquaculture products in the EU market (Opportunities).

Documentation of annual data on aquaculture.

Record keeping and annual rendition of data/records to the EU.

Publication of "Criteria and Guidelines for Certification of Aquaculture Products in Nigeria.

Collaboration and formation of self help groups among fish farmers.

Inclusiveness: Public and Private Organisations

Collaborations with the Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Service (NAQS), Fisheries Society of Nigeria (FISON), Catfish Farmers Association of Nigeria(CAFFAN), etc.

# FINDINGS

## **02. To assess Nigeria's readiness for compliance with EU Directives on the placement of aquaculture products (Challenges).**

- The laboratory has inadequate laboratory equipment. HPLC with variable wave length which does not have detectors that can monitor to the low level required to international standard.
- Method development of individual parameters and stated standard methods. Fish matrix has very limited method available in international testing.
- Limitation to test/ analyse of certain parameters such as mercury.
- Training in techniques of handling products and the use of advanced technology in the development of smoking kilns to reduce the residue on the finished products.

## **02. To assess Nigeria's readiness for compliance with EU Directives on the placement of aquaculture products (Challenges).**

- Training of fish handlers in personal hygiene and in handling of raw materials to finished products. AWfishNET is playing a pivotal role with women.
- Little or no Compliance by higher percentage of practising farmers.
- Weak link between Federal and State Agencies among others.
- Need for exports to be differentiated to conform to the correct labelling standards for different countries

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- Documentation : Daily collection of data on all farm activities, record of inspections; disease occurrence if any, movement of inputs, fish and fisheries products.
- Collaboration with European partners in an EU-funded project called the African Food Tradition revisited by Research(AFTER) to boost competitiveness of local fish farmers and processors.
- Deliberate targeted interventions to ensure compliance with EU Directives for ease of access, the United States Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service (USDA FSIS) Notice 14-18 and the certification requirement from NAQS by the Russian Government. This is to avoid operators in the catfish industry from getting disenchanted.



# CONCLUSIONS

- Bumpy or Smooth? Not smooth but definitely not too bumpy .
- Urgent need to create awareness of what needs to be done by Government and stakeholders.
- Achieving goal of export smoked catfish into EU market requires strong political will, inclusiveness and adequate funding.
- With the ban on the importation of Silirufomes into the US it has become critical for Government to take the necessary steps to ensure the certification of smoked cat fish into the EU and all other markets.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- Compulsory adaptation of best practices on all aquaculture establishments, processing facilities, other handlers(packaging and transportation), marketing.
- Inspection of farms must be all encompassing with accurate documentation of data and other information.
- Stakeholders inclusiveness for good governance of transparency, mass participation and decision making.
- Establish National Aquatic Animal Health Programme. Veterinary services must be at strategic locations for identification and treatment of diseases and parasites.
- Develop Code of Conduct for aquaculture on environmental and social issues, food safety, animal health disease control and use of drugs for aquaculture.



**THANK YOU FOR LISTENING.**