

AQUACULTURE, G20 and UN SDGs

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Introduction

Aquaculture operations are a booming industry world-wide in recent times. It is hailed as the Blue Revolution. The demand for fish, shrimp and algae farming is high in both developed and developing nations and is thus of significant interest to the aquaculture operations in the G20 nations

Among the fish producing countries globally, India ranks third and accounts for over 8% of the total fish production.

About G20

G20 (Group of 20 nations) is a prestigious international collective forum for mutually beneficial economic cooperation. The **G20** membership comprises of a total of **19 sovereign independent nations** which are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States and also includes the **European Union**, which is a international political and economic union of **27 member states** that are mainly located in Europe.

India has assumed **G20 Presidency** for **2023** by taking over from its predecessor Indonesia , and will hand it over to Brazil for 2024, followed by South Africa in 2025, as part of the annual presidency rotation system.

India's G20 Leadership Priorities

Under **India's G20 Leadership**, its **Cardinal Priorities** pertain to the following aspects :

1. Accelerated, Inclusive & Resilient Growth
2. Accelerating progress on United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
3. Green Development, Climate Finance & Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE)
4. Multilateral Institutions for the 21st century
5. Technological Transformation & Digital Public Infrastructure
6. Women-led development



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Aquaculture fulfils UN SDGs in G20

In this context, aquaculture operations in most G20 Nations, especially in developing nations like Argentina, Australia, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Italy, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, and South Africa, form a cardinal aspect of G20 Priority policy initiatives for socio-economic benefits.

In juxtaposition with this, aquaculture operations also fulfils multifarious aspects relating to UN SDGs.

As a paradigm, Aquaculture food production process fulfils 5 IMPORTANT UN SDGs :

UN SDG 1 - by generating and providing artisanal employment thus leading to alleviation of poverty

UN SDG 2 - by reduce hunger and

UN SDG 3 - by ameliorating nutrition, generate economic growth

UN SDG 8 - Promote Sustained, Inclusive and Sustainable Economic growth

UN SDG 14 - Life below Water

Sustainable aquaculture would require sustainable economic practices. This would entail the use of human and material resources to create long-term sustainable values by optimal use, reduce wastage and adopt measures for re-use and recycling of resources.



Under India's G-20 Presidency, Marine Products Exports Development Authority (MPEDA) is organizing a special buyer-seller meet between Indian seafood exporters and importers of G20 countries. at the 23rd edition of India International Seafood Show to be held at Kolkata in February 2023. This will uniquely help to revitalise the seafood sector in India and G-20 Nations to a great extent.

As the top ten buyers of Indian seafood are from G20 countries, contributing 73 per cent of total exports from the country, this unique buyer-seller meet will help to improve the cooperation with G20 countries in marine product exports, It can also help in establishing collaborations and exports to other G20 nations where India has less presence and thus open up more new markets for exports.

India, according to published reports, has been exporting around \$100 million worth marine products till this year to the UK market. The EU market has also witnessed a 30 per cent growth this year clocking \$777 million till October.

Aquaculture would thus be a robust and viable business proposition for various stakeholders including small and marginal farmers even in the rural segments in India as well as in other G20 Nations.

With good long term prospects via efficient aquaculture health management and disease control and improving the net yield and profits, the Indian and other G-20 nations farmers can ensure sustainable aquaculture economics in the long term and contribute to a robust Blue Revolution and contribute to a sustainable Blue economy.