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Prospects for aquaculture development in Africa in the context of a changing climate: a review

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Abstract

In Africa, aquaculture has contributed to global fish production over the past decade, supporting rising fish demand and improving incomes and food security of the growing populations in the region. However, there are significant concerns for the health of aquatic resources due to the increasing impacts of climate change and climate variability. Aquaculture in Africa also faces increasing constraints as competition from the agricultural sector for the available resources intensifies, significantly impacting location, productivity, and scalability of the sector's production systems. The contributions of the aquaculture sector to global emissions of greenhouse gases are discussed. We recognize that ecosystems are generally complex; therefore, we have provided region-specific and local context-specific, climate-smart aquaculture solutions required to enable sustainable growth of the sector. This review paper is a reminder of the effects of climate change impacts on the vulnerable aquaculturedependent economies and communities in Africa. It also provides a framework of strategic climate-smart aquaculture (CSA) approaches for the sector to (a) sustainably increase output productivity and efficiency; (b) reduce vulnerability and increase resilience, and (c) mitigate greenhouse gas emissions in fisheries and aquaculture. In Africa, climate-smart success will depend on country-specific biophysical, socio-economic dynamics, institutional and market capacity, regional geopolitics, and local needs and interests. To enhance resilience, increase efficiency, and avoid maladaptation of the proposed CSA approaches, African governments should integrate their national climate change policies and aquaculture programs with broader development objectives such as food security, sustainability, biodiversity, social equity, and stability.

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Introduction

Globally, aquaculture has become the predominant source of fish protein (Golden et al., 2017), doubling its production every decade for the past 50 years (Bostock and Seixas, 2015). In Africa, aquaculture has contributed immensely to the total amount of fish produced over the past decade, supporting rising fish demand and improving incomes, food and nutrition security of the growing populations in the region (Mwima et al., 2012). The level of fish consumption in Africa during 2015–2017 was 9.9 kg but it's projected to decline to 9.6 kg by 2027 and ultimately to 7.7 kg by 2050 despite the steady population growth (OECD, 2018; Chan et al., 2019) and increasing demand for fish (Kobayashi et al., 2015). East African region, second only to Southern Asia, had the highest food insecure population in 2016, compared to the rest of the world (AUC-NEPAD, 2014a; FAO, 2018d). As such, Africa is projected to continue heavily relying on imported frozen fish due to its ease of availability, steady supply, and price to meet the demand gap and its nutritional needs (OECD, 2018; Tran et al., 2019). As revealed by IMPACT Model projections, Africa's total fish output will be significantly low in the next decade because of the expected slow growth of capture fisheries and aquaculture in the region (Chan et al., 2019).

More than 200 million people in Africa are reportedly regular fish consumers (Béné and Heck, 2005), especially tilapia-the most commonly cultured fish species in the region (De San, 2013). The top aquaculture producers in Africa are Egypt (~1.37 million tonnes) and Nigeria (~ 306,727 tonnes) (FAO, 2018a), mostly driven by increased investment by the private and public sector interventions as the continent strives to achieve food and nutrition secure nations (Mwima et al., 2012). The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that fish accounts for more than 20 percent of animal protein supplies in about 20 African countries (FAO, 2017a). The sector is now rapidly responding to this market demand for fish with an average annual growth rate of 21 percent in Sub-Saharan Africa alone (Satia, 2017), especially in Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, and Zambia (Asiedu *et al.*, 2015; Kaminski *et al.*, 2017; Satia, 2017).

Climate change and climate variability have the greatest impact on fisheries and aquaculture sector in Africa, especially on productivity and sustainability. Unfortunately, since the impact of climate change varies by region; it could likely worsen food insecurity in Africa as a whole by disrupting the distribution of available resources in the continent's aquatic environments (Challinor *et al.*, 2007). It's projected that by 2050 if the current production and consumption trends in Africa continue, more than half of the fish consumed in Africa will be imported (Chan *et al.*, 2019). Hence, sustainable climate-smart growth of the aquaculture sector in Africa is required to meet the demand of an increasingly growing population.

Around 1.74 million tonnes of global aquaculture production comes from Africa, contributing about 2 percent of total global production. Nile perch (43.6 percent), African catfish (11.9%), and common carp (10.5%) are some of the most commonly consumed fish species in Africa (James, 2018). However, the growth and development of the aquaculture sector in Africa still require more effort to ensure the consistent production of safe and nutritious fish as well as smart aquaculture practices for a sustainable future (James, 2018). Indeed, a recent study on impacts of climate variability and adaptation options in Africa found that Egypt and Nigeria, two countries with high fish consumption per capita, were relatively vulnerable to the effects of climate change including temperature (Adeleke et al., 2018).

Fish produced can be for domestic consumption, export trade, or both. Inland aquaculture is dominated by small-scale fish farmers, mainly for subsistence and to satisfy the growing local markets. Subsequently, a supply response has been observed in some countries such as Zambia whereby medium to large scale farms have begun to upgrade operations to increase their aquaculture output (Tweddle *et al.*, 2015; Kaminski *et al.*, 2017). Indeed, Zambia has

recently emerged as the largest producer of farmed fish the Southern African in Development Community (SADC) region (Genschick et al., 2017), while Kenya is the fourth in the whole of Africa, having grown exponentially to peak its fish production at 24,096 tonnes in 2014, driven largely by an ambitious Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP) aquaculture subsidy programme commissioned from 2009-2013 (KNBS, 2018; Obiero et al., 2019c). The ESP focused on critical aquacultural infrastructures such as pond design and construction, fish feeds, fingerlings supply, as well as post-harvest management and human resource institution to assist fish farmers (Obiero et al., 2019c).

Despite these incredible interventions to prioritize the development of the sector in Africa, subsistence fish farming has limited supervision from veterinarians and extension officers in the region. Sadly, consumer protection control and other regulations and legislations are not fully enforced in the aquaculture sector in some of the African countries (Rutaisire et al., 2009) which increases the likelihood of contamination from harmful compounds such as antibiotics, heavy metals and pesticides from anthropogenic sources (Wamala et al., 2018; Kostich & Lazorchak, 2008; Burridge et al., 2010; Nnodum et al., 2018; Mark et al., 2019). Country-specific monitoring programmes are in place to monitor such contamination to ensure food safety. However, such monitoring cannot completely prevent or eliminate the supply of contaminated aquaculture products to consumers.

Integrated fish farming, that is, using animal waste and excreta to supplement fish feed in ponds, is still the most commonly practiced form of aquaculture system (Elsaidy et al., 2015). Of course, this disregards the importance of human health protection by intentionally introducing pathogenic microorganisms into the aquaculture facility which could lead to food-borne illnesses. Therefore, there is a need to establish а more suitable aquaculture system to ensure safety or the protection of public health. A range of actions is required to make aquaculture system climate-smart considering the effect of climate change on food security, especially on the African economies that often have a low capacity to adapt to change.

More importantly, one of the biggest concerns is how climate-induced changes in productivity and availability of aquatic resources have led to the expansion of capture fisheries and commercial aquaculture to meet the growing market demand for fish and contributed to the increasing carbon imprint into the atmosphere. As such, a shift to local contextspecific, climate-smart aquaculture strategies is required to enable the sector to prepare for a sustainable future. especially through the development of climate-resilient and low-carbon capture fisheries and aquaculture systems. Therefore, this review highlights the prospects for climate-smart aquaculture development in Africa considering climate change impacts on aquatic systems and more broadly, the potential reduction of vulnerability within the communities that depend on fisheries and aquaculture.

Climate-related changes that affect ecological functions

Climate-related changes include physical and chemical processes known to increase greenhouse gas emissions, much of which is absorbed by aquatic systems, leading to substantial changes in aquatic ecosystems (FAO, 2016b). The devastating effects of climate change and climate variability on aquatic environments include changes in the abundance and distribution of fisheries resources and the overall suitability of some regions for aquaculture systems (FAO, 2016a). This impacts their ability to provide food security and livelihoods to populations dependent on aquaculture (Kareko et al., 2011; FAO, 2016b). Effects of climate change on aquaculture systems include changes in salinity and freshwater content, oxygen concentration, water acidification and temperature, storm systems, rainfall and river flows (Cochrane et al., 2009; FAO, 2016b). Oceans and coastal areas are particularly vulnerable to these changes (FAO, 2016b). For example, changes in

carbon chemistry can affect shell development in marine shellfish whereas temperature changes can increase the sensitivity of some species to pathogens (FAO, 2016b).

Productivity potential and species distribution in aquaculture systems dependent on inland water bodies such as dams, rivers, and lakes may be affected by extreme weather events including changes in air and water temperatures as well as levels of precipitation (IPPC, 2014; FAO, 2016b). Climate change may also have significant stress on postharvest activities. For instance, the availability of adequate water for processing may be challenging, especially if the same water source is required for other farming practices such as irrigation. Of course, climate-induced changes often occur simultaneously and their effects are cumulative, thus their impact on natural resources, food security, and social stability is huge (IPPC, 2014).

The growing demand for fish and other aquatic products in Africa Worldwide, aquaculture as well as marine and freshwater-capture fisheries have contributed to the growth of fish production to meet the global demand, rising from 19 million metric tonnes (MT) in 1950 to 171 million MT in 2016 (FAO, 2018b). Fish is the most accessible and affordable source of animal protein, especially for 'poor' socioeconomic classes (Béné *et al.*, 2015). Fish production is crucial for over 3 billion people in developing countries since fish contribute 17% of animal protein and 7% of all proteins consumed (FAO, 2018b).

In Africa, many factors drive fish preferences and consumption including affordability (average of US\$2/kg), rising population growth, increasing income levels, accessibility, as well as awareness of health benefits and the nutritional value of fish (Githukia *et al.*, 2014; Darko *et al.*, 2016). Nutritionally, fish provides docosahexaenoic and eicosapentaenoic omega-3 fatty acids, high-quality essential amino acids, minerals, and vitamins, which are necessary for improved health (Kris-Etherton *et* *al.*, 2002; Beveridge *et al.*, 2013; Béné *et al.*, 2015; Golden *et al.*, 2016). As such, fish is a high-value food that supports the nutritional wellbeing of poor communities (Beveridge *et al.*, 2013; Béné *et al.*, 2015; Golden *et al.*, 2016; FAO, 2017b;) considering that several African countries have significant numbers of undernourished and malnourished populations (FAO, 2018c; FAO, 2018d). For instance, the high malnutrition incidences in the East African region, especially in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda, has been shown to correspond to the significantly lower quantity of fish consumed/capita (average of 5.3 kgs) compared to the rest of Africa (10.1 kg), and global level of 19.8 kg (Cai and Leung, 2017; Obiero *et al.*, 2019).

Roughly 200 million people in Africa consume fish as the main animal protein source and micronutrition (AUC-NEPAD, 2014b). Africa's population is expected double by 2050 (UN-DESA, 2017), but to unfortunately, the continent's contribution to the amount of fish produced, consumed, and traded globally is so small. In 2016, for example, the aquaculture sector only contributed about 2.5% of global fish production (FAO, 2018b). Thus, with overfishing and overexploitation in the capture fisheries sector (FAO, 2018b), aquaculture is expected to meet the increased fish demand in Africa (Chan et al., 2019), and continue supplying animal protein to the poor and food-insecure populations (Kobayashi et al., 2015; Golden et al., 2017).

Rising urbanization, increased incomes, and awareness of the health benefits associated with consuming fish have contributed largely to the increased global fish consumption rates (Anderson *et al.*, 2017). Capture fisheries and aquaculture resources have improved the economic security of farmers through domestic and international trade of wild and farmed fish, employment, and other livelihood support services (De Graaf and Garibaldi, 2014; Cai *et al.*, 2019). Global capture fisheries production peaked in 1996 at around 96 million MT, whereas aquaculture production has continued to grow for the past 50 years to produce 80 million MT of fish in 2016 (FAO, 2018b). As such, aquaculture alone is on-trend to produce 195 MT of fish by 2027 and contribute immensely to the future expansion of fish as food (OECD-FAO, 2018). No doubt, the increasing demand for fish in Africa and the ongoing transformations in fish supply have led to the gradual growth and development of aquaculture in the continent (Kobayashi et al., 2015), bringing an estimated US\$3 billion annually (De Graaf and Garibaldi, 2014). The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) estimates that about 1.6 million tonnes of fishery production in Africa come from aquaculture (AUC-NEPAD 2014b). The sector also employs about 12.3 million people in the areas of fishing, processing, equipment manufacturing, and fish farming (De Graaf and Garibaldi, 2014), generating about 1.26% of gross domestic product (GDP) (AUC-NEPAD, 2014b).

The growth of fish production in Africa is not immune to problems as competition for land, water, energy, and feed resources intensifies. Combined with the potential impacts of climate change on ecosystems, the aquaculture sector faces significant challenges as it tries to satisfy the gap between capture fisheries. This paper reviews current information on the extent to which aquaculture contributes to food and nutrition security in Africa, and highlights a need for developing targeted policies and investment in climate-smart approaches to meet the 21st century socio-economic and environmental challenges impacting the region. Of course, the future of fish demand in Africa opens up opportunities for investments in aquaculture value chains. This, however, is strongly linked to both population and economic growth of the continent (Kassam and Dorward, 2017).

Aquaculture practices in Africa and its challenges

Aquaculture in Africa is dominated by men. This is probably due to strong cultural norms that explicitly define men as heads of households and women as caretakers of chores in the homestead (Akrofi, 2002). However, women's roles in aquaculture production activities are significant, ranging from processing and transportation to marketing and sale (Akrofi, 2002; Kruijssen *et al.*, 2018).

Aquaculture accounts for 17% of total fish production in Africa (FAO, 2018b; Chan et al., 2019; Obiero et al., 2019a). Fish and fisheries products in Africa mostly come from two production techniques, namely aquaculture and wild-catch. In general, there are three types of aquaculture practiced around the world, namely, land-based commercial, water-based commercial, and small-scale production. These production techniques use different sets of inputs. For instance, the aquaculture sectors use five types of inputs, namely, seed, feed, labor, fuel, and sectorspecific inputs such as capital investment in the facility. On the other hand, wild-catch (capture fisheries) sectors only use labor, fuel, and other sector-specific inputs. Regardless of the production techniques, there is evidence that climate-related changes such as rising temperature and flooding of waterways affect the ecological functions of the aquatic environments and impact overall yield. Flooding, for instance, may introduce pollutants from sewage into the ponds, thereby reducing dissolved oxygen levels and destroying the fish as a result of algal bloom (Weatherdon et al., 2016).

Generally, aquaculture sector in Africa has expanded its production capacity to include other mariculture species (Ovinlola et al., 2018) through innovation and intensification of production systems (Joffre et al., 2017), adoption of new technologies (Kumar et al., 2018) and improvement in resource efficiency and utilization (Waite et al., 2014). Indeed, studies indicate that the aquaculture sector has generally benefited from the adoption of new technologies in aquaculture production, breeding systems, nutrition and feed formulations, genetic selection programs, labor-saving equipment, development of vaccines, investment in management practices as well as improved regulatory frameworks and control (Joffre et al., 2017; Kumar et al., 2018). Despite the recent growth in Africa's aquaculture sector, the industry isn't technologically advanced and is largely constrained by lack of good-quality seed and feed,

poor market access and value addition, lack of credit/capital, insufficient extension services, and programs, poor management systems, low capacity in disease diagnostics, training and biosecurity, and disadvantageous competition from cheaper imported fish products from established markets such as China (Mwima *et al.*, 2012; Kaminski *et al.*, 2017), thus its full potential in contributing to the sustainable food supply in the region is unknown (Brummett *et al.*, 2008; Obiero *et al.*, 2019c).

Like in other animal production systems, feed is the most expensive input in aquaculture. In Africa, most farmers prefer to use farm-made feeds formulated with grains (Amankwah et al., 2016) either alone or with animal waste and excreta as a supplemental nutrient source, mainly to benefit from the synergistic effects of inter-related farm activities and off-set high production cost (Petersen et al., 2002; Elsaidy et al., 2015). Commercially manufactured feeds, either locally-made or imported, are often used by larger aquaculture operators with access to sufficient credit and markets, and often can tolerate risks associated with declining prices. The fish feeds are mostly sourced from privately- or government-owned hatcheries (Opiyo et al., 2018) and small-scale semicommercial feed manufacturers (Obiero et al., 2019b). However, the cost of high quality imported fish feeds is often beyond the budget of many smallscale fish farmers, to the extent that some of the farmers would switch to risk management strategy to stabilize their incomes or abandon production altogether to minimize losses when production cost increases or competition with increasing fish imports become unsustainable.

Unfortunately, the fish feed sector has an unreliable supply chain, lacks proper quality monitoring and standards management strategy, compromising on production performance, consistency, and food safety (Obiero *et al.*, 2019b). Nevertheless, several other factors play an important role in determining the actual production capacity of a fish farm and its sustainability. These include but are not limited to (a) technological shift that reduces the environmental impacts of aquaculture (Troell *et al.*, 2009); (b) the diversification strategies to maximize on space and input (Rapsomanikis, 2015); (c) quality of governance and access to advisory and extension support services (Kuehne *et al.*, 2017); and (d) promotion and adoption of sustainable aquaculture practices (Engle, 2017; Kumar *et al.*, 2018). Some of these are either unavailable or inaccessible to many small- and large-scale fish producers and traders in Africa, suggesting that investments by the private sector are critical to sustain innovation, increase growth, improve production efficiency, and reduce production costs to stay in business.

The role of aquaculture in greenhouse gas emissions The major greenhouse gases (GHGs) associated with aquaculture production are: (a) nitrous oxide (N₂O), emitted as a result of the microbial nitrification and denitrification of nitrogenous compounds in the ponds (e.g. fertilizers, manures, uneaten feed and excreted N), (b) carbon dioxide (CO₂), from energy and fuel consumption associated with farm management such as pumping water, lighting and powering vehicles, (c) methane (CH₄), arising during fish farm waste management, and (d) fluorinated gases (F-gases) leaking from cooling systems used on and off the farm (MacLeod *et al.*, 2019).

The application of feeds in aquaculture is the leading contributing factor in greenhouse gases (GHG) emission in the sector (Naylor et al., 2000). Aquafeeds increase nutrient loadings in the water bodies and pond sediments in feed-based aquaculture production systems (Boyd et al., 2010; Chatvijitkul et al., 2017). Approximately 75 percent of the nitrogen consumed by fish from the feeds is excreted into the water as ammonia, while the remainder is converted into biomass (Hu et al., 2012). Additionally, the carbon from the feeds can be transformed into carbon dioxide and methane by animals and microbes in the water (Boyd and Tucker, 2014) while a great amount of unconsumed feed become deposited in the pond sediments together with feces (Boyd et al., 2010), where they continue to provide carbon for submerged macrophytes (Yuan et al., 2019). Approximately 39.9 million tons of aquafeeds were used in global aquaculture in 2016 alone, leading to about 10.9 teragram carbon and 1.82 teragrams nitrogen discharged into the environment (Alltech, 2017).

Today, it is estimated that >40% of worldwide aquaculture production is carried out in earthen ponds around the world (Yuan *et al.*, 2019), contributing about 80.3% of the total methane emitted into the environment (Hu *et al.*, 2014). Since intensified systems with continuous aeration reportedly have the least emissions (Hu *et al.*, 2014), global adoption of aerated systems has been proposed to mitigate the significant rises in methane emissions from aquaculture sources (Yuan *et al.*, 2019).

It has also been suggested that pond sediments can sequestrate carbon and contribute to mitigation (Boyd *et al.*, 2010), which had previously been shown to complicate quantification of greenhouse gas emission (Verdegem and Bosma, 2009). However, later studies such as the Sustaining Ethical Aquaculture Trade (SEAT) project determined that it was impossible to quantify the extent by which pond sediments can act as carbon sinks due to uncertainties over the sequestration rates and stability of the carbon storage (Henriksson *et al.*, 2014).

Fertilizers are used in inland aquaculture systems to stimulate phytoplankton production for supplemental nutrients for the fish (Green, 2015). However, such anthropogenic use of fertilizers has the potential to significantly increase methane and nitrous oxide emissions from aquaculture systems into the environment. For instance, in 2008 alone, a global nitrous oxide emission from the aquaculture sector was estimated as 0.08 teragram (Williams and Crutzen, 2010). Using the nitrous oxide emissions factor of influent nitrogen (EF_N = 1.80%) in sludge and wastewater treatment processes (Ahn et al., 2010), nitrous oxide emission was later projected to increase to 0.60 teragrams by 2030 and account for 5.72% of global anthropogenic nitrous oxide emissions (Hu et al., 2012).

Overall, approximately 0.45 percent of global anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions in 2013 came from aquaculture sources, which is similar to the emission intensity from sheep production in the same period (MacLeod et al., 2019). The modest emissions are large because fish have low feed conversion rate compared to terrestrial animals (Gjedrem et al., 2012), do not produce methane via enteric fermentation (Hu et al., 2012; MacLeod et al., 2019), and lastly, their high fertility rate reduces breeding overhead (MacLeod et al., 2019). These are three key determinants of fish emission intensity, considering that the greatest greenhouse gases in aquaculture come from aquafeeds (MacLeod et al., 2019). Furthermore, unlike terrestrial mammals, fish (both finfish and shellfish) require less energy for physiological functions and excrete ammonia directly (MacLeod et al., 2019). In aquaculture, shrimps and prawns have the highest emission intensity because they require energy usage for water aeration through the systems. On the other hand, bivalves have the lowest emission intensity since they source food from their environment and thus have no synthetic feedrelated emissions (MacLeod et al., 2019).

However, despite the low emissions from the sector, the contribution of aquaculture to the increasing global carbon footprint cannot be ignored. For example, carbon dioxide emission from energy usage in the post-harvesting and value addition activities such as drying, smoking, cold storage, and transportation, which are not included in the 0.45 percent, also has significant global warming potential. Additionally, aquafeed production use machines and equipment that require energy to grind and mix the raw materials or make and dry the pellets. The total energy used depends on local energy source and production efficiencies. The feed materials can be marine or terrestrial in origin and are often formulated to meet the nutritional needs of the fish depending on species and age. Poor feed quality may reduce fish performance and increase greenhouse gas emissions. Of course, the feed must eventually be transported to the farms for use, which requires utilization. Therefore, operations energy and

processes that require high amounts of fuel and energy are among the highest greenhouse gas emitters.

Climate change and its potential impacts on aquaculture systems in Africa

Food production systems are especially vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and associated risks (Handisyde et al., 2017). As such, there's urgent need to effectively respond to the threat of climate change, through mitigation and progressive adaptation strategies. On a global scale, climate change effects on the aquaculture and fisheries sector will lead to significant changes in the availability and trade of fish products, and for countries whose economies rely on this sector, create other geopolitical tensions (Barange et al., 2018). In general, climate change is expected to affect fish and ecosystems, livelihoods, trade, and economies (Daw et al., 2008; Allison et al., 2009; Badjeck et al., 2010; Brander, 2010). According to greenhouse gas emission scenario RCP8.5, global marine catch potential is projected to decrease by 7.0 - 12.1 percent by 2050, resulting in shifts in the availability and distribution of species (Barange et al., 2018). As such, adaptations to climate change, including institutional adaptations, are necessary and must consider the multifaceted nature of aquaculture and fisheries.

Freshwater is a valuable resource and is used in many sectors of human life ranging from human consumption to agriculture, aquaculture, and recreation. Unfortunately, climate change is projected to result in a significant reduction in freshwater resources (Jimenez Cisneros, et al., 2014). Competition for scarce freshwater resources seriously affects the sustainability of inland aquaculture and fisheries and adds stress to the already resourcestretched sector (Katikiro and Macusi, 2012). Today, Morocco is one of the African countries currently facing high stresses and is projected to become even dire in the future, while Papua New Guinea, the Congo, the Central African Republic and Gabon are under low stress at present and are projected to remain as such in the future (Barange et al., 2018).

Physical and ecological impacts of climate change on global aquaculture and capture fisheries is well documented in the literature (Allison et al., 2005; Handisyde et al., 2006; Allison et al., 2007; Daw et al., 2008; Allison et al., 2009; Barange and Perry, 2009). In general, the implications of climate change on aquaculture systems in individual countries and communities depend on their adaptive capacity (Aswani et al., 2018). Climate change impacts on aquaculture may include losses of production, infrastructure, fish markets, or decreased safety of fishers at sea (Katikiro and Macusi, 2012; Barange et al., 2018). For instance, the impact of precipitation on inland freshwater ecosystems has a significant effect on the supply and quality of freshwater lakes and rivers that support inland aquaculture and fisheries (Barange et al., 2018).

Aquaculture systems are especially vulnerable to rising global temperatures, particularly production infrastructures in the tropics, where population densities are high (De Silva and Soto, 2009). In the last decade alone, global warming has produced weather events that were exceedingly rapid and extreme and differed from those of the past, adding more stress to the environment and aquatic systems and leading to changes to relative abundance, distribution and productivity of fish in the water bodies (Cheung et al., 2010). Changes in sea temperature are ultimately responsible for other impacts such as acidification, sea-level rise, increased frequency and intensity of storms, extreme winds, flooding and erosion (De Silva and Sotto, 2009; Barange et al., 2018), which may radically change the whole ecosystems and hence directly impact aquaculture-dependent communities and damage aquaculture infrastructure (Allison et al., 2005). Furthermore, any losses to important coastal habitats such as mangroves ecosystem which support numerous fish species (IPCC, 2007) as a result of climate change could lead to disruption of fishing patterns and behavior (Katikiro and Macusi, 2012).

In Africa, both marine and inland water bodies such as wetlands, floodplains, lakes, and rivers are all susceptible to climate change effects, especially precipitation and rising temperature (FAO, 2010a; Settele *et al.*, 2014). Of course, increase precipitation lead to the expansion of fish habitats, and fishers would be expected to adapt to new systems and fishing range to maximize success (Barange *et al.*, 2018). However, increased precipitation may also lead to extreme events such as floods which may introduce contaminants and pathogens via surface runoffs into ponds and waterways. Low precipitation or prolonged drought had a profound effect on Nigeria's aquaculture systems supported by Lake Chad and was feared could lead to the total collapse of fishery activities in the West African nation (Oyebande *et al.*, 2002; FAO 2010a). Generally, reduced precipitation leads to increased competition for freshwater. Reduced levels of rainfall in inland catchments over time may make farmers in the agriculture sector to take on fishing to support their livelihoods (Katikiro and Macusi, 2012). On the other hand, increased precipitation in wetland and inland aquaculture systems may cause changes to the salinity of the water bodies, which could impact the survival of salinity-sensitive aquatic organisms including prawns (Katikiro and Macusi, 2012). In Africa, Uganda, Nigeria, and Egypt are estimated to be the most vulnerable to climate change (Barange *et al.*, 2018).

Table 1. A proposed framework for context-specific climate-smart aquaculture (CSA) in Africa: sustainably increasing output productivity and efficiency.

Theme	Component	Climate Smart Priority Actions	Context and challenges	Potential Climate Change Impacts	Opportunities and Benefits	Outcome	References
Sustainably increasing output productivity and efficiency	Increase intensification to ensure economically sustainable productivity.	Aquaponics / Hydroponics	 Extractive aquaculture that contributes towards removing nutrients and organic loads. Bacteria metabolize the fish waste, and plants/vegetables assimilate the resulting nutrient-rich effluent through their rooting system. The purified water is then returned to the fish tanks. The financial investment for inputs required. Expert assessment and consultation required. 	 watershed pollution caused by aquaculture effluent discharge. Potential to deliver higher yields of produce and protein with less labour and land. Uses a fraction of the water. 	agricultural challenges such as shortages of freshwater, soil degradation, erosion, and mineral fertilizer requirement. • Resilient; can be adapted to		Martins <i>et al.</i> , 2010 FAO, 2013 FAO, 2014 Somerville <i>et al.</i> , 2014 FAO, 2016a Chomo and Seggel, 2017 Barange <i>et al.</i> , 2018
	Selective breeding and genetic improvements.	Breed for improved feed conversion ratio (FCR)	• Reduce FCR while selecting for increasing body size in fish.	 Selective breeding for strains efficient in using plant feed, especially for species at higher trophic levels. Use of species more efficient at using the feed, especially at lower trophic levels. Improve the physical performance of fish and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. 	 Improves stocks. Make feeding more efficient. Reduces losses from disease. 	• Need for species adapted to integrated farming and/or agroecological farming.	Troell <i>et al.</i> , 2009 Gjedrem <i>et al.</i> , 2012 Thoa <i>et al.</i> , 2016 Kumar <i>et al.</i> , 2016 Omasaki <i>et al.</i> , 2017

FAO, 2015).

Increasingly wet conditions also put at risk the traditional food processing techniques such as the drying of fish (IPCC, 2014). Moreover, incidences of food-borne illnesses, such as ciguatera fish poisoning, and other types of diseases, are likely to increase as a result of climate change (IPCC, 2014). Increased flooding also cause may displacement of communities, subsequent migration and/or conflict, and destruction of aquaculture infrastructure, thus small-scale fishers in countries that over-depend on aquaculture and fisheries are most likely to suffer the consequences of climate change (Barange et al., 2014;

Changing water temperatures and associated phonologies affect fish physiological processes and their ecological fitness (Brander, 2007; Barange and Perry, 2009; IPPC, 2014). It has been observed that most fish species sensitivity to acidification and pathogens increases in habitats beyond their thermal ranges (FAO, 2016b). Therefore, short-term climate change impacts on aquaculture and fisheries systems can include increased risks of pathogens and parasites, arising from rising global temperatures that affect their growth, metabolism, and ability to fight pathogens and diseases (Allison et al., 2007; Ficke et al., 2007). Long-term impacts can include prolonged drought and a decline in aquaculture and fisheries production. At worse, climate-driven changes in global temperature, precipitation levels, ocean acidification, changed monsoon cycles, sea-level rise, the length and frequency of hypoxia events, modified ocean circulation patterns, and the modified hydrological regimes (De Silva and Sotto, 2009; Katikiro and Macusi, 2012) are expected to have longterm impacts in the aquaculture sector to varying magnitudes (Barange et al., 2018).

In Africa, Egypt's brackish water production and Madagascar's marine aquaculture are considered to be highly vulnerable to climate change (Handisyde *et al.*, 2017; Barange *et al.*, 2018). In the case of brackish water production, Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, Tanzania, Madagascar, and Papua New Guinea are the countries with the lowest adaptive capacity to cope with the impacts of climate change; while for marine aquaculture, Mozambique, Madagascar, Senegal, and Papua New Guinea were found to have the particularly low adaptive capacity (Handisyde *et al.*, 2017; Barange *et al.*, 2018).

In the past, fishing communities in Africa have been able to cope with the rare weather events such as flooding by being geographically mobile and creating alternative livelihoods (Boko et al., 2007). However, progressive adaptation strategies today, and resilience building are required since increasing population growth and administrative barriers make age-old tactics inapplicable. Of course, small-scale and artisanal fisheries and fishers are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change (Barange et al., 2018). They often consist of commercial boatbased, or a small-scale, beach-based line- and netfishery, which are labor-intensive and mainly exploit the species in estuaries and near-shore waters (Barange et al., 2018). Therefore, the adaptation options provided in the FAO guidelines (FAO, 2012; FAO, 2015) are particularly designed for this cohort and could be useful for promoting sustainable aquaculture development in Africa. Additionally, community-based approaches to fisheries governance would be essential in improving the economic stability of small-scale fishers in the region, considering the increasing likelihood of extreme weather incidences in the decades to come (Barange et al., 2018).

Lastly, the impacts of climate change do not respect administrative borders, even though each country has unique risks and vulnerabilities as well as institutional and socio-economic differences. Inevitably, climate-induced implications on marine stock availability, distributions, and assemblage (Barange and Perry, 2009) can lead to transboundary conflict at both regional and international levels (Barange et al., 2018). Many species could migrate towards deeper ocean waters to find their ideal habitat conditions such as temperature and oxygen levels. Some commercial species may migrate offshore, further away from traditional fishing grounds (IPCC, 2007), permitting other species that are tolerant of higher temperatures and changes in the salinity of coastal waters to move into the void (Roy *et al.*, 2007; FAO, 2016b), negatively impacting fishery and profitability (Fairweather *et al.*, 2006). In Africa, the impacts of climate change are of greatest concern in the South Western region, especially the fishing communities that depend on coastal and inland fisheries due to the high exposure of the low-latitude regions to the impacts of global warming (Barange *et al.*, 2014) and limited capacity to adapt to associated risks and opportunities (IPCC, 2014).

Table 2. A proposed framework for context-specific climate-smart aquaculture (CSA) in Africa: reducing vulnerability and increasing resilience.

Theme	Component	Climate Smart Priority Actions	Context and challenges	Potential Climate Change Impacts	Opportunities and Outcome Benefits	References
-	Build climate- inclusive resilience.	Culture-based aquaculture	 Less costly, environmentally friendly food production system. Effective use of water resources. Increases diversification for food. System is vulnerable to the unpredictability of precipitation. Yields are much less than in most intensive aquaculture practices. 	consume external feed resources. • No greenhouse gas	semi-intensive to food fish production extensive aquaculture and food security systems. among rura • Stocking during the rainy season, and harvest at the onset of the dry season. • Improves	7 Amarasinghe and l Nguyen, 2009 t 2 FAO, 2013 FAO, 2016a
	Strengthen integrated adaptation to risk reduction.	Rice-fish system Integrat ed production systems.	 Diversification of resources and incomes. Maximizes food production and energy utilization, sustainably. Rearing fish in rice paddies to maximize food production and energy utilization sustainably. 	s efficiency in the use of resources. • Mitigates greenhouse gas emissions from rice	productivity and stronger and more efficiency in the aquatic resilient) De Silva and Soto 2 2009 FAO, 2014 Lipper <i>et al.</i> , 2017 Barange <i>et al.</i> , 2018
	Enhance resilience to climate change and disasters.	Improved pond design • Use tarpaulin ponds during dry weather. • Erect shades over the pond to reduce evaporation losses. • Raised banks prevent the influx of floodwater. • Use indoor ponds and Recirculating Aquaculture Systems (RAS) with water filtration mechanisms.	 Flooding may introduce pollutants from sewage and surface runoffs into the ponds, thereby reducing dissolved oxygen levels and destroying the fish as a result of algal bloom. Drought may reduce the availability or reliability of freshwater supplies in many places already subject to water scarcity. Increased risk of diseases, parasites, and harmful algal blooms during rainy seasons. 		management to management to maintain aquacultural reduce stress. productivity, support Increased productivity, support • Increased monitoring for water nutrition. quality, disease outbreaks, etc. • Boosts outbreaks, etc. Effective resilience through the • Effective	De Silva and Soto, 22009 FAO, 2010b Thaddeus <i>et al.</i> , 2012 Cattermoul <i>et al.</i> , 2014

Climate-smart approaches in aquaculture systems and their challenges

FAO's ecosystem-based climate-smart approaches in aquaculture and fisheries consider (a) sustainable increase in productivity and efficiency, considering environmental and socio-economic aspects of the sector, (b) reducing vulnerability and increasing resilience to enable the sector to cope with impacts of climate change, and (c) mitigating greenhouse gases throughout the entire value chain. The suggested climate-smart approaches capable of achieving these objectives are the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) and the Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture (EAA) (FAO, 2016a).

According to FAO, some of the benefits of implementing the ecosystem approach to fisheries and aquaculture include (a) improving the general resilience of fisheries and aquaculture systems, including promoting the consumption of a greater diversity of fish species, to minimize vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and climate variability on resources, (b) adoption of context-specific and community-based adaptation strategies, and (c) stabilization of income for communities that rely on capture fisheries and aquaculture for their livelihoods (FAO, 2016a; Chomo and Seggel, 2017).

(a) Sustainably increasing productivity and efficiency in aquaculture

For aquaculture, fully integrated systems, proper watershed management, water planning, improved feed efficiency, better disease diagnosis, and treatment can help increase productivity and efficiency in the aquatic systems (De Silva and Soto, 2009; Troell et al., 2014a), without compromising the nutritional quality and safety of the fish (Beveridge et al., 2013). Some developed economies use innovative technologies such as hyperspectral imaging (HSI) to check diseases and microbial contamination in fish products (Vejarano et al., 2017). Additionally, emerging biotechnologies such as the development of transgenic fish, for example, salmon in the United States and Canada (Aerni et al., 2004) have enabled the production of fish with greater tolerance to temperature, salinity, and susceptibility to disease (Wakchaure et al., 2015).

In terms of feed formulation, the aquaculture sector has been over-reliant on fishmeal and fish oil (Tacon and Metian, 2008); this has significantly constrained growth in the sector (Little *et al.*, 2016). Other constraints include increased competition from the agricultural sector for the available land and water resources (Troell *et al.*, 2014b), which could significantly impact location, productivity, and scalability of the aquaculture production systems (FAO and World Bank, 2015). As such, aquaponics (the symbiotic relationship between aquaculture and hydroponics) has been suggested as a potential climate-smart option for increasing efficiency and address these constraints (Martins *et al.*, 2010). Of course, hydroponics (the cultivation of plants in water without soil) can be combined with aquaculture in a closed recirculation system. The roots of the plants (or crops) floating on water can assimilate the nutrients metabolized by the bacteria, and then the purified water is often returned to the tanks/ponds for fish to use (FAO, 2016a; Chomo and Seggel, 2017).

Therefore, aquaponics (integrated agriculture/aquaculture technique) is a climate-smart approach for increasing productivity and efficiency in food production (FAO, 2016a).

The utilization of plants and vegetables in aquaponics helps minimize fish waste discharge and reduces watershed pollution by eliminating the need for mineral fertilizers and pesticides in agriculture (Chomo and Seggel, 2017). With increasing competition for freshwater resources, aquaponics has the potential to sustain high productivity with less labour and land while maximizing nutrient utilization and minimizing water usage (FAO, 2014; FAO, 2016a; Chomo and Seggel, 2017).

Aquaponics has other benefits too. Since it's a controlled system, it provides a level of biosecurity that reduces the risk of disease or infestation, while solving challenges found in traditional agriculture such as soil degradation, erosion, mineral fertilizer requirement, and irrigation. It's believed that aquaponics generates fewer greenhouse gas emissions to produce the same amount of product in a relatively small space by eliminating energy requirement for tilling the land or no application of mineral fertilizers (FAO, 2014; FAO, 2016a).

Large-scale commercial aquaponics requires substantial capital investment and a ready market for the often premium-priced pesticide-free vegetables and may be too expensive to small- and medium-scale farmers (Chomo and Seggel, 2017). However, for a start, FAO has prioritized supporting Small-scale Aquaponic Food Production efforts (FAO, 2014) and has invested in conducting training workshops in Eastern and Northern Africa and building demonstration sites in the Caribbean countries (FAO, 2016a; Chomo and Seggel, 2017).

Despite the high capital expenditure and technical for Climate Smart requirement Aquaculture approaches such as transgenic fish production, hyperspectral imaging for disease control, and aquaponics/hydroponics, these technologies have the potential to support economic development and enhance food security and nutrition in Africa. Unfortunately, these CSA technologies may not be easily adopted in Africa because they are not contextspecific in terms of regional cultures and economies. For instance, transgenic fish may not be entrepreneurially feasible in Africa because of country-specific cultural norms and unknown longterm environmental and human health consequences (Aerni et al., 2004). Additionally, expensive high-tech hyperspectral technologies such as imaging equipment for disease control may be inaccessible and unaffordable for many small- and large-scale farmers in the region. As such, contextualized technology suitable for Africa's multi-cultural situations, economic realities, and political challenges is crucial for the adoption of CSA technologies to ensure food security for the region.

(b) Reducing vulnerability and increasing resilience to climate change impacts

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is the second most vulnerable national economy globally to climate change-driven impacts on fisheries since its nutritionally dependent on fish (45 percent of animal protein being derived from fish) (Allison *et al.*, 2009). For such an economy, climate-smart disaster risk reduction and management strategies are valuable because climate change and climate variability can cause reduced yields from aquaculture farms arising from global warming, acidification, and pathogens (FAO, 2016a). Culture-based aquaculture (a stock enhancement process) is a smart way to improve resilience and increase fish production and diversification for food (Amarasinghe and Nguyen, 2009) using limited resources such as freshwater (De Silva 2003). Culture-based aquaculture is very relevant for species whose breeding grounds have been affected by climate change, such as (a) mussels, (b) shrimp, especially *Penaeus monodon* and freshwater prawns, (c) tuna, and (d) some high-value marine finfish (Barange *et al.*, 2018). Bivalves and seaweeds, of course, require no additional feed input.

Culture-based aquaculture is less costly, environmentally friendly and does not consume external feed resources, thus has no greenhouse gas emission related to feeding (FAO, 2016a). Financially, this would be suitable for semi-intensive to extensive aquaculture systems in Africa to ensure food security, especially in the rural communities that often share communal waterbodies. Regardless, the system is vulnerable to the unpredictability of precipitation resulting from climate change, which is beyond human control, and thus, can have a significant impact on the productivity of the system. To adapt, stocking in culture-based aquaculture can be done during the rainy season, and harvesting can take place at the onset of the dry season. Also, indigenous fish species from well-managed broodstock could be utilized to avoid genetic introgression and disease from wild stock (FAO, 2016a). Another practical option would be to introduce marine and euryhaline species (with wide salinity tolerance) or shift to coastal aquaculture-based fisheries in response to water circulation changes, water stress and drought conditions (Daw et al., 2009; De Silva and Soto, 2009). Building such resilient livelihoods in Africa would equip communities with tools to withstand damage from climate change, recover quickly as well as adapt to change (IPCC, 2014). Lastly, the resilience of the aquaculture sector to climate change impacts may need adaptation efforts focused on enhancing the sustainability of aquaculture resources as well as constructing climate-resilient infrastructure such as deeper ponds, among others.

(c) Mitigating greenhouse gas emission

Generally, aquacultures play significant roles in reducing and/or supporting the natural removal of emissions as well as providing alternative energy sources. In aquaculture food production, feed and fertilizer and the primary and secondary contributors to greenhouse gas emissions, respectively (FAO, 2016c). It was estimated that 385 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent (CO₂) were emitted in 2010 from the aquaculture sector, amounting to approximately 7 percent of those from agriculture (Hall et al., 2011). Emissions (methane and nitrous oxide) from sediments and water systems tend to increase from the extensive system (no treatment and/or only partial fertilization) to semi-intensive (uses fertilizers and/or partial feeding) or intensive systems (fully dependent of feeds). Intensive production of finfish and crustaceans is the greatest emitter for greenhouse gases because it is heavily reliant on feeds as well as energy for water aeration (Hasan and Soto, 2017; Robb et al., 2017). Comparatively, the farming of mollusks produces relatively low greenhouse gas emissions (Bonaglia et al., 2017).

Additionally, energy sources (e.g. fuel) for machines and equipment (e.g. water pumps and vehicles, etc.) used in aquaculture production processes also generate greenhouse gases (FAO, 2016a; Hasan and Soto, 2017; Robb *et al.*, 2017). Energy-intensive postharvest processing such as smoking, drying, packaging, storage, and transportation contribute to greenhouse gas emission. Newer and more efficient machines and equipment can save fuel compared to old engines. Renewable energy (e.g. wind, solar, and hydropower) could eliminate the need for diesel for hydraulics, refrigeration, heating, cooling, lighting, pumps, etc. required in aquaculture operations (Thomas, *et al.*, 2010).

Models indicate that using better technologies, renewable energy, improving feed conversion rates, and formulating fish feed with crop-based ingredients instead of marine-based ingredients would greatly reduce greenhouse gas emissions in aquaculture (Waite *et al.*, 2014). Using 2010 as the baseline year, these efforts together are projected to increase global aquaculture production by 133 percent by 2050 while reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 21 percent in CO_2 emission per tonne of fish produced (Waite *et al.,* 2014). It's also been reported that integrated food production systems, for example, rearing fish in rice paddies would maximize food production and energy utilization sustainably while mitigating greenhouse gas emission from rice fields (Lipper *et al.,* 2017).

Additionally, integrated mangrove-shrimp cultivation can substantially reduce blue carbon emissions (carbon sequestered, stored, and released in coastal mangroves, seagrass, and salt marshes) (McLeod et al., 2011; Ahmed et al., 2017). Mangroves are one of the most threatened tropical ecosystems (Donato et al., 2011) yet they store carbon better than other tropical upland forests (Alongi, 2014). Destruction of mangrove forests has led to an increase in emissions of blue carbon (Alongi, 2014). It's estimated that an area covered by 50 percent mangrove forest and integrated with shrimp culture can sequester 0.86-1.04 million tons of carbon per year and reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions (Ahmed et al., 2017). According to Naturland organic aquaculture standards, integrated mangrove-shrimp farming can also be certified as organic aquaculture (Naturland, 2019).

Lastly, seaweed (microalgae) aquaculture in the deep seas can act as CO2 sink, and if used for biofuel (bioethanol and biodiesels) production, has the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels required for energy production (Duarte et al., 2017). Biofuel production is an already established enterprise; it's efficiency and yields are increasing. Seaweed aquaculture can also improve soil quality and significantly eliminate the need for synthetic fertilizers in agricultural production, and when used in animal feed, help lower methane emission from cattle (Duarte et al., 2017). However, inland seaweed aquaculture, grown in conventional culture systems, face challenges such as lack of suitable areas for the practice, resource competition, high capital for infrastructure installation to cope with extreme climate change impact on off-shore environments, and ready market demand for seaweed products (Duarte *et al.,* 2017; Barange *et al.,* 2018).

In Africa, reducing greenhouse gas emissions from aquaculture systems can be achieved in ways that are cost-effective and socially efficient. Some measures with the potential to improve the physical performance of fish and reduce greenhouse gas emissions include: (a) breeding for improved feed conversion ratio (FCR) (Thoa *et al.*, 2016); (b) vaccination for streptococcosis, which is likely to improve animal welfare by reducing mortality rates as well as a decrease in antibiotic use (Liu *et al.*, 2016); and (c) adding phytase to the ration to improve nutrient utilization and bioavailability (Adeoye *et al.*, 2016).

Table 3. A proposed framework for context-specific climate-smart aquaculture (CSA) in Africa: reducing and removing greenhouse gases (GHG).

Theme	Component	Climate Smart	Context and challenges	Potential Climate	Opportunities and	Outcome	References
		Priority Actions		Change Impacts	Benefits		
Reducing and	Strongly	New feed	• The feed is	Aquafeeds	• Focus	• Help	Naylor <i>et al.</i> , 2000
removing greenhouse	engage in	formulations and	the primary	increase nutrient	research to reduce	reduce the	De Silva and Soto, 2009
gases (GHG)	greenhouse	design.	determining factor for	loadings in the water	the low	environmental	Afinah <i>et al.,</i> 2010
	gas		greenhouse gas	bodies and pond	biodigestibility of	impact of	Boyd <i>et al.,</i> 2010
	mitigation	• Switching	emission levels,	sediments in feed-	terrestrial	aquaculture	Boyd and Tucker, 2014
	processes.	from feed based on	followed by synthetic	based aquaculture	feedstuffs.	through low	Waite <i>et al.,</i> 2014
		fish to feed made	fertilizers.	production systems.	• Cluster	carbon	Chatvijitkul <i>et al.,</i> 2017
		from crop-based	• Commercial		approach to access	development.	FAO, 2017d
		ingredients, insect	aquafeeds formulations		better feed.	• Genetic	MacLeod <i>et al.</i> , 2019
		protein meal, and	rely heavily on		• Increase	improvement for	
		microalgae.	relatively costly fish		research	alternative feeds.	
			meal and fish oil.		investment on	• Better	
			Over-		better feeds and	feed management.	
			reliance on marine		feeding.	• Fish	
			ingredients can lead to		• Increase	meal/oil	
			overfishing, making too		the incentive to	replacement.	
			many vessels go after		consume and farm		
			fewer and fewer fish,		non-fed species.		
			increasing fossil fuel		• Phytase		
			use, and reduces the		addition to the feed		
			economic efficiency of		ration in order to		
			fisheries.		increase the		
					bioavailability of		
					nutrients and		
					improve FCR.		

The need for context-specific climate-smart aquaculture (CSA) framework for Africa

According to FAO, the goal of Climate-Smart Aquaculture (CSA) is to support food and nutrition security while considering the mitigation of greenhouse gas emission as well as adaptation to a changing climate (FAO, 2013). In Africa, aquaculturebased communities are particularly vulnerable to impacts of climate change on the natural resources required for productivity and survivability of fish and other aquatic invertebrates. As such, CSA addresses challenges regarding aquaculture infrastructure development for protecting and improving production capacities and the supply chain while minimizing their potential negative trade-offs (FAO, 2013; FAO, 2016a).

Additionally, CSA is targeted at building resilience to climate change impacts on aquaculture, thus enhancing FAO's achievement of national food security and sustainable development goals (FAO, 2013), and which will require: (a) improving natural resource utilization efficiency e.g.

aquaponics/hydroponics; (b) reducing vulnerability and increasing resilience at the local level to support aquaculture-dependent communities; and (c) reducing and removing greenhouse gases, mainly carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O) (Barange et al., 2018). Fish farmers in Africa could help the sector achieve this by adapting to aquaculture system that ensures increased production efficiency through improved feeding (lower feed conversion ratio), proper disease diagnosis and management, use of renewable energy, and reduction of postharvest and production losses (Daw et al., 2009; De Silva and Soto, 2009; FAO, 2016a). These strategies will require institutional and human capital, the involvement of private and public sectors, as well as participation at regional and national levels, to ensure the aquaculture sector is climate-smart even as the sector tries to expand economic and trade opportunities across countries.

It would be expected that regional policymakers and other stakeholders should be able to develop and implement appropriate responses to climate change in their respective regions through inclusive dialogue with neighboring countries and proper analysis of scientific data.

The success of CSA in the African region will require that climate-smart approaches are locally relevant, economically sustainable, culturally appropriate, and environmentally friendly. Even so, adaptation to the impacts of climate change and climate variability as well as mitigation strategies to reduce or limit greenhouse gas emissions must consider the use of aquaculture practices that adhere to FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (FAO, 1995) and whose implementation is facilitated by the ecosystem approach to fisheries and aquaculture (EAF/EAA) (FAO, 2003; FAO, 2009; FAO 2013; Chomo and Seggel, 2017). Already, Nigeria has responded by adopting integrated aquaculture to encourage increased food production; treatment of fish wastewater to minimize pollution of surrounding water bodies; adopting the use of tarpaulin ponds during dry weather; and erecting shades over the pond to control water temperature and reduce evaporation losses (Thaddeus *et al.*, 2012). Constraint to CSA in Africa may include high adaptation costs that negatively impact production and profits; unclear trade and value-added opportunities; lack of awareness, preparedness, and appropriate skills; political interactions at national and regional levels; competitiveness of exports and world trade patterns; and local social, economic and policy measures of greenhouse gas impact.

Therefore, context-specific climate-smart aquaculture processes and actions may reduce the impacts of climate change and climate variability on aquaculture systems, improve the sector's mitigation potential, build value chain resiliency and promote sustainable production and consumption while ensuring societal and environmental sustainability.

Community-based capacity building in basic aquatic resource management will ensure underlying resilience in the face of climate variability and change. OF course, community-based adaptation strategies will improve the management of farms and the choice of farmed species by facilitating understanding, and the use of inclusive devolved approaches involving local stakeholders. Adaptation measures to climate change that could be appropriate in Africa's context may include: proper zoning, planning and site selection for aquaculture through risk analysis (Cattermoul et al., 2014; FAO, 2017d); adoption of environmental monitoring systems to track weather events that can trigger disease outbreak and water movements that cause toxic algal blooms (Barange et al., 2018); provision of access to affordable credit and insurance for recovery from climate-change-induced damages (Karim et al., 2014; FAO, 2016d, 2017e); better management practices that improve the environmental performance, productivity and profitability of aquatic farms (Barange et al., 2018); technological innovations that reduce susceptibility to climate change such as aquaponics/hydroponics (Somerville et al., 2014); aquaculture diversification strategies that's compatible with local ecosystems (Harvey et al., 2017); and integrated agri-aquaculture

production systems to maximize resource utilization and reduce greenhouse gas emission (Crespi and Lovatelli, 2011; Shelton, 2014; Barange *et al.*, 2018). Nonetheless, to facilitate mainstreaming of CSA in Africa, efforts are needed to integrate aquaculture into climate change adaptation and food security policies at every level of governance in each country to build synergies in local institutions and ensure their incorporation into development planning.

Proposed context-specific framework for implementing climate-smart aquaculture in Africa

Climate change is expected to impact aquaculture and fisheries-dependent economies, fishers, and fish farmers and workers throughout the value chain in a of ways. Therefore, context-specific variety approaches to climate-smart aquaculture in Africa should address the common needs of regional relevance, accuracy, accessibility, affordability, costeffectiveness, food security, social equity, resource use, and efficiency, human nutrition and health, proper monitoring systems and enforcement, together with direct or indirect measures of greenhouse gas emission impacts.

In Africa, each country exists within a unique geographical, environmental, institutional, and socioeconomic context, which means that its aquaculture systems will have different risks and vulnerabilities. Thus, context-specific approaches to climate-smart aquaculture in the region should be planned and implemented with full consideration of this complexity and need to be participatory, adaptive, and flexible, to meet the objectives of sustainable aquaculture/fisheries management and to respond to the challenges posed by climate change and climate variability. The consequences of an inefficient, poorly planned framework are likely to exacerbate the impacts of climate change and increase risks of maladaptation (Field et al., 2014). For Africa, to build, strengthen and sustain productive and resilient aquatic ecosystems, CSA must be implemented across all sectors and scales of aquaculture and fisheries, with particular attention to the needs of the poor and marginalized communities. As such, this will require climate-smart aquaculture framework that has: (a) ecosystem level and long-term focus, (b) adaptive approach and management, (c) capacity to endure complexity as well as ecological and socio-economic uncertainties, (d) an integration of multiple sectors and scales, (e) inclusive stakeholder engagement and empowerment, (f) monitoring, enforcement and review capability, and lastly, (g), ecological sustainability, economic viability, and social stability.

For example, the commercial aquaculture sector depends heavily on the application of the relatively costly aquafeeds which often rely on fish meal and fish oil in their formulation. However, synthetic feeds reportedly increase nutrient loading and carbon burial in aquaculture systems (Naylor *et al.*, 2000). Moreover, overfishing of marine species is making too many vessels chasing after fewer and fewer fish, increasing fossil fuel use, and reduces economic efficiency of fisheries and raising concerns about the resilience of aquaculture to climate change (Hsieh *et al.*, 2006).

Therefore, climate-smart aquaculture strategy must consider replacing the more costly fish meal/oil with locally-sourced cheaper alternative ingredients such as grains. Breeding initiatives can then target improving feed conversion ratio (Table 1) and by reducing the low biodigestibility of terrestrial feedstuffs Fish feed formulations and recipes should deliver comparative nutrition credentials while ensuring nutrient requirements and dietary needs of the stock are met. Switching from feed based on fish to feed made from crop-based ingredients, insect protein meal and microalgae will help reduce the environmental impact of aquaculture since fishing vessels and equipment generate carbon dioxide emissions (Table 3).

To validate that transitioning to feed formulation with no marine ingredients can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and is socially efficient, Marginal Abatement Cost Curves (MACCs) modeling, which has been widely applied in the development of mitigation policy for agriculture, can be used to analyze its cost-effectiveness and to determine the marginal benefit of reducing pollution (MacLeod et al., 2015). For a given measure, optimal pollution abatement occurs where the marginal cost of abatement equals the marginal benefit (Pearce and Turner, 1990). Measures can include: (a) fish breeding programs for improved feed conversion ratio (FCR) (Gjedrem et al., 2012; Omasaki et al., 2017), and (b) phytase addition to the feed ration to increase the bioavailability of nutrients and improve FCR (Afinah et al., 2010). This is because tilapia lacks phytase in their intestines, while phytate, an indigestible form of phosphorus, is particularly common in plant raw materials, especially soybean and rice bran, and has low bioavailability for tilapia. The biological efficiency of aquaculture will be reflected in the relatively low commodity prices resulting from the reduced cost of feeding and decreased greenhouse gas emissions intensities (Table 1 and 3). Thus, cost-effectiveness analysis (CEA) using MACC model can be used to help identify the most cost-effective efficiency improvements, thereby supporting the sustainable development of aquaculture in Africa.

Extensive adaptation to climate change will also be necessary to reduce vulnerability to future climate change to the African countries. Adaptation approaches must consider the effective use of water resources and where appropriate can include climatesmart approaches such as aquaponics (Table 1), integrated production systems to increase food diversification (Table 2) and improved pond design (Table 2).

(a) While some aquaculture innovations and practices have focused on ensuring a high-quality and consistent supply of farmed fish to the markets (Kumar *et al.*, 2016), several factors influence aquaculture technology adoption by communities (Dey *et al.*, 2010; Wetengere, 2011; Kumar *et al.*, 2018). Unfortunately, little is known about the scale of impacts of technological change in African agriculture in general (Glover *et al.*, 2016), especially in socio-economically vulnerable human societies

such as those found in rural communities. However, since many donors are advocating for the mainstreaming of climate change adaptation and resilience in policies on food systems and value chains in developing countries (Ayers *et al.*, 2014; Sherman *et al.*, 2016), we believe implementing climate-smart aquaculture in context-specific environments in Africa as a means of addressing climate change and community-based disaster risk management would have the following considerations. Understanding of gaps in system resilience, greenhouse emission and productivity potential.

(b) Protection of natural resources as well as the efficiency of resource use.

(c) Improvement of rural livelihoods and incomes.

(d) Nutritional security.

(e) Personal and community empowerment.

(f) Vulnerability reduction.

(g) Understanding of widespread social marginalization and poverty in fishing communities.

(h) Climate change and the potential risks to productivity, stocks, and human health.

(i) Mechanisms for community-based responses.

(j) Ecosystem complexity, communities, and governance structures.

(k) An integrated and participatory approach to managing fisheries and aquaculture systems.

(l) Cultural factors such as community norms.

(m) Limited availability of inputs in local markets.

(n) Absence of credit, microfinance, insurance, and other support measures.

(o) Ancillary effects on the environment, animal welfare, or human health.

(p) Post-harvest practices at the farm-level.

(q) Concept of sustainable intensification and country-specific biophysical, socio-economic dynamics, institutional and market capacity, regional geopolitics, and varying local needs and interests.

(r) Emerging technologies including renewable energy sources.

Finally, we believe that adopting and transitioning to

CSA in Africa will be based on the potential impact of the proposed climate smart priority areas, sectorspecific relevance, farm-specific characteristics, and size, production status, diversification of other agricultural activities, resource accessibility, extension services availability, cost-effectiveness, individual country's adaptive capacity, governance structure, and aquatic resource management policies. Of course, economic and market-based incentives would make the CSA self-sustaining. However, institutional change and strengthening, public and private sector investment, and the development of proper infrastructure and participatory monitoring systems will be required. One approach would be to develop national climate change policies and aquaculture programs integrated with broader development objectives such as food security, sustainability, social equity, and biodiversity, with partnership and support from regional agencies, stakeholders, development partners, governments, and administrations.

Conclusion

Fish is the most accessible and affordable source of animal protein, especially for the 'poor' socioeconomic classes in Africa, and demand and consumption of fish products will continue to increase due to increasing income levels and awareness of nutritional and health benefits of fish. However, the growth of fish production in Africa is not immune to climate-induced problems as competition for land, water, energy, and feed resources intensifies. The contributions of the aquaculture sector to global emissions of greenhouse gases are discussed and we have provided contextspecific methods for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, including (a) improving feed conversion rates, and (b) switching from feed based on fish to feed made from crop-based ingredients, insect protein meal, and microalgae. We have proposed a framework leveraging the principles described in FAO's ecosystem approach to fisheries and aquaculture (EAF/EAA) strategies and then modified for context-specific environments in Africa while considering the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries to maximize success. The proposed framework is structured for the African context and economies and has climate-smart strategies for (a) sustainable intensification, (b) vulnerability reduction and resilience building, and lastly, (c) greenhouse gas mitigation. Based on the empirical literature, prioritizing these actions in the African context will depend on the prevailing geopolitics, laws and regulations, socio-economic statuses, specific community needs, market capacity, trade/tariff laws, unique institutional factors, exposure, sensitivity, and the nature of vulnerability within every country and region.

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