



First FAO-CFA Joint International Conference on Sustainable Aquaculture

18–20 March 2026 | Fuzhou, Fujian Province, China

Background

Aquaculture has become the principal driver of growth in global aquatic food production, accounting for 52 percent of total global aquatic animal production in 2023. Production is highly concentrated geographically, with Asia accounting for around 90 percent of global aquaculture production, underscoring the region's central role in global supply. As demand for aquatic foods continues to rise, these structural patterns highlight both the strategic importance of aquaculture for global food security and nutrition as well as livelihoods, and the increasing pressure on the sector to address sustainability challenges related to limited resources, aquatic animal health, environmental impacts and resilience to climate change.

While many countries have expanded production, persistent structural challenges remain. These include unsustainable feed and feeding practices, fragile seed supply chains, gaps in aquatic animal health management, uneven access to innovation and finance, and limited capacity to translate policy commitments into operational change at farm, value chain and regional levels. Addressing these interconnected challenges requires more than technical improvements; it demands coordinated action across policy, industry, research and investment communities.

This conference, co-organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the China Fisheries Association (CFA), is designed to focus on the latest advancements and practical innovations for advancing sustainable aquaculture that address global challenges in food security, climate resilience, and health. The Conference will bring together policymakers, national aquaculture associations, industry leaders, researchers, financial institutions and regional organizations to identify concrete pathways for advancing sustainable feed and feeding systems, resilient seed supply chains, effective aquatic animal health management, and innovation-driven transformation.

By combining global and regional perspectives, targeted case studies including China's experience, and on-site demonstrations of practical solutions, this Conference aims to provide a forum for global experts to present cutting-edge research and share sustainable strategies, while facilitating collaboration, investment, and coordinated action to advance the long-term sustainability, resilience, and inclusiveness of aquaculture systems worldwide.

Objective

The Conference aims to convene a global, cross-sectoral community of aquaculture leaders to exchange knowledge and experience, foster strategic dialogue, and jointly identify practical pathways, partnerships and priority actions that accelerate sustainable aquaculture development, strengthen cooperation and support coordinated action at national, regional and global levels.

Participants

The Conference will bring together a broad range of stakeholders, including government representatives, non-governmental organizations and associations, academic and research institutions, regional aquaculture networks, private sector actors, and international financial institutions around the world, united by a shared vision of transforming aquaculture for the next generation.

Expected outcomes

- enhanced international dialogue and mutual learning on sustainable aquaculture production technologies and practices;
- strengthened global and regional networks of aquaculture associations and professional societies to support continued collaboration;
- improved understanding of practical approaches and experiences for implementing sustainable aquaculture practices, drawing on global perspectives, regional experiences and country case studies; and
- identification of opportunities for collaboration and the joint development of innovative initiatives to address shared challenges.

Meeting arrangements

The Conference will be a three-day event, co-organized by FAO and CFA, and will follow an interactive and participatory format. It will feature keynote lectures, plenary sessions, thematic presentations, case studies and networking events, serving as a dynamic platform for exchanging knowledge and ideas across themes.

Key themes will include sustainable feed and feeding, seed supply chains, aquatic animal health management, and innovation for sustainable aquaculture, with the overall theme of strengthening the role of aquaculture in achieving global food systems transformation.

A field trip will be organized on the third day to a local aquaculture facility to demonstrate cutting-edge innovations spanning across the various thematic areas.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Time	Agenda item	Speaker
DAY 1: Wednesday, 18 March 2026		
09.00–09.30	Opening session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAO • MARA BOF • CFA • Fujian province
09.30–09.45	Global aquaculture outlook: Trends, challenges and opportunities in the decade ahead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAO
09.45–10.00	<i>Group photo</i>	
10.00–10.20	<i>Tea break</i>	
10.20–11.20	Session 1: Keynote presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting the GSA to achieve FAO Blue Transformation • Knowledge and experience-sharing by national aquaculture associations and societies • Innovation and technology transfer for sustainability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFA • CAFS • National Fisheries Technology Extension Center and China Society of Fisheries
11.20–12.20	Session 2: Partnerships and investment to scale up implementation of the GSA – panel discussion	
12.20–12.30	Presentation: International cooperation towards sustainable aquaculture, a Chinese experience	
12.30–14.00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14.00–15.30	Session 3: Sustainable feed and feeding	
15.30–15.40	<i>Tea break</i>	
15.40–17.10	Session 4: Sustainable seed supply chain	
17.10–17.30	General discussion and Q&A	
17.30–17.45	Closing of Day 1	
DAY 2: Thursday, 19 March 2026		
09.00–10.30	Session 5: Sustainable aquatic animal health management	
10.30–10.40	<i>Tea break</i>	
10.40–12.10	Session 6: Innovations for sustainable aquaculture	
12.10–12.30	General discussion and Q&A	
12.30–14.00	<i>Lunch break</i>	
14.00–14.20	Presentation: National innovation and investment plans for aquaculture transformation, Thailand, India and Philippines experiences	
14.20–16.00	Session 7: Regional perspectives on the implementation of the GSA – panel discussion	
16.00–16.10	<i>Tea break</i>	
16.10–16.40	Wrap up and next steps	
16.40–17.00	Closing of the Conference	
DAY 3: Friday, 20 March 2026		
08.30–6.30	Field trip	