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The situation of aquaculture in Africa

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In northern and northeastern Africa, Egypt ranks first with 92% of the region's total production and has now become the second largest producer of Tilapias after China and the world's largest producer of Big Head Mule (*Mugil cephalus*). Meanwhile, output from sub-Saharan Africa remains negligible despite its natural potential. Nigeria leads the region, producing some 44,000 tons of catfish, tilapia and other freshwater fish. The encouraging signs observed, however, make it possible to expect production to increase in the future: The production of giant tiger prawns (*Penaeus monodon*) in Madagascar and *Eucheuma* algae in the United Republic of Tanzania is booming, while the production of niche species such as abalone (*Haliotis spp.*) in South Africa is also increasing. In Senegal, national production has not yet exceeded 150 tons of all species. At the same time, the fisheries sector is faced with enormous difficulties. Overexploitation of certain fish stocks, poses serious risks of disturbances in supply to the local market due to the deferral of fishing effort from species of current consumption to those destined for the external market. These difficulties are aggravated by the decline in the landings of inland fisheries due to the negative impacts of the drought and the failure to take account of the aspects related to fisheries in the hydroelectric development on the Senegal River. By 2020, with a projection of 17 million inhabitants, the growing deficit between supply and demand for fishery products would exceed 50% of domestic trade and would constitute a major food security challenge for the country. The only alternative available to the country is the development of aquaculture.

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