

THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF AQUAPARKS: EXPERIENCES FROM CHINA - FAO PUBLICATION

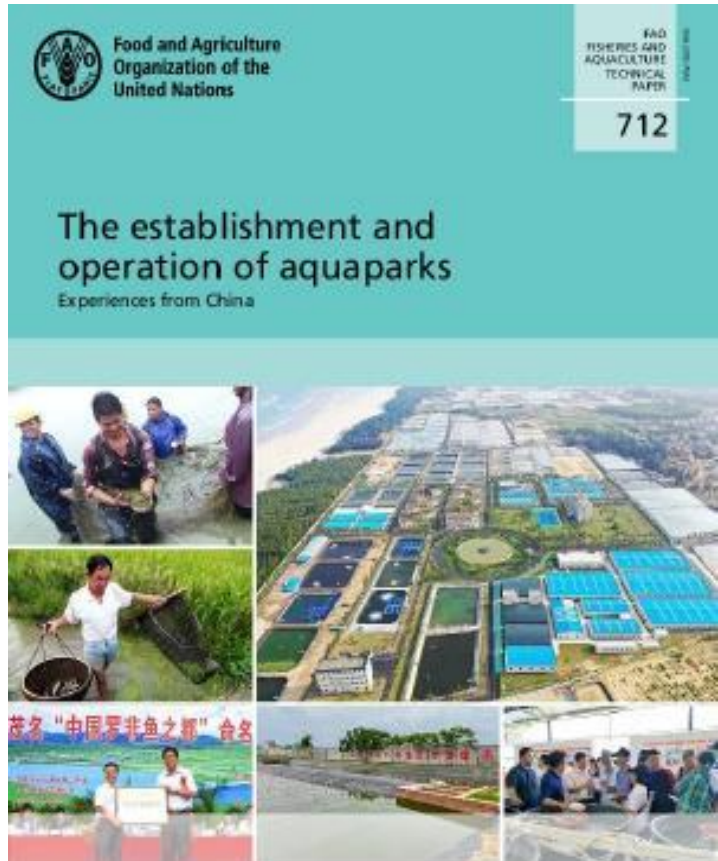
[In May 2024 A total of 22 government officials and FAO country programme officers from 15 countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean took part in a training workshop on aquaparks](#), an innovative organizational model that was developed to support small-scale fish farmers at every link of the value chain.

The workshop was co-organized by FAO and the Freshwater Fisheries Research Centre (FFRC) of the Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences, whose experts shared knowledge through presentations, discussions, on-site practice, and field trips.

Participants learned good practices in planning and operating aquaparks, which are designed to improve the environmental, social, and economic performance of aquaculture using scientific solutions to differentiate and organize the chain of production: from inputs such as seed and feed to grow-out facilities to processing and marketing. This integrated approach mitigates risks and maximizes benefits for farmers, cooperatives, and enterprises.

Aquaparks are based on the Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture, one of the guiding principles of the new Guidelines for Sustainable Aquaculture GSA. They include planning, zoning, infrastructure, and key inputs, from seed hatcheries and feed mills to roads, water, power, and waste treatment to technical and extension services, value-adding and market access.

Aquapark design follows the principles of the new Guidelines for Sustainable Aquaculture (GSA), which FAO Members have finalized after a global, comprehensive eight-year consultative process. [The Manual The establishment and operation of aquaparks: experiences from China published by FAO in 2024](#) contributes to FAO's efforts in advancing the [Blue Transformation initiative](#). It offers valuable insights to FAO and its Member Nations, enhancing their comprehension of the aquapark concept and enabling the formulation of effective strategies for the implementation of



this model to foster sustainable aquaculture development. The aquapark model is an important innovation to improve environmental, social and economic performance of aquaculture as a mean of sustainable development, which needs support from government aquaculture development strategy and policies, and investment from sector and private companies.

“The establishment and operation of aquaparks: Experiences from China” is a comprehensive document which features invaluable insights derived from extensive experience in sustainable aquaculture in China. The benefits of aquatic products are widely recognized, in terms of providing the necessary dietary requirements for the ageing and young population, and also due to their affordability and availability. The term ‘Aquapark’ refers to an organizational model, designed to support small-scale aquafarmers throughout the sustainable aquaculture value chain. It includes the input of essential resources, such as infrastructure, water, roads and electricity, and critical elements, such as seed and feed, as well as extension services and market access, embodying the essence of sustainable aquaculture development. This technical manual, divided into two significant components, serves as an in-depth guide for those interested in this model and its establishment and operation in practice.

Part I offers an insightful global overview of aquapark development and delves into the best practices that underpin the planning, design, infrastructure and management of these aquaculture clusters in China.

Part II showcases real-world success stories of aquaparks in China, such as the Chinese Catfish Aquaculture Park: Demonstrating the model's effectiveness in driving local catfish production; the Guangxi Aquaculture Industrial Park: Highlighting the economic benefits of aquaculture parks for entire regions; the Integrated Rice-Fish Farming in Hani Terraces, Yunnan: Showing the model's ability to harmonize with existing aquaculture practices; the Guangdong Tilapia Aquaculture Park: An excellent example of aquapark success in tilapia production; the Guangdong Zhanjiang Integrated Shrimp Aquaculture Industrial Park: Demonstrating the model's adaptability to shrimp aquaculture. These case studies serve as living testaments to the transformative power of aquaparks, not only in enhancing local food production and supply chains, but also in driving positive social, economic and environmental change.

These case studies also demonstrate that the aquaculture park model is beneficial for all stakeholders:

- Fish Farmers: Increased productivity, better incomes, and access to valuable technical knowledge.
- Consumers: Safe, high-quality seafood produced with minimal environmental impact.
- Environment: Sustainable aquaculture practices contribute to healthier ecosystems.
- Economy: Increased aquaculture production strengthens food security, generates jobs, and drives economic growth.



The manual aligns with [FAO's commitment to advancing the Blue Transformation](#), an endeavor to promote the expansion and intensification of aquaculture and sustainable practices and initiatives within this vital sector. By sharing this wealth of knowledge and experiences obtained in China, it will help to empower small-scale aquafarmers and foster fruitful collaboration between public and private partners on a global scale. FAO hopes that this book will benefit the decision-makers, farmers, extension officers and all stakeholders in the aquatic food value chain.

To know more

[News in FAO website](#)

[Manual The Establishment and operation of Aquaparks – pdf](#)

[Manual The Establishment and operation of Aquaparks in FAO website](#)

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[Manual in researchgate.net](#)

[The state of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2024 Interactive Story](#)

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[FAO Blue Transformation 2022 -20230 roadmap](#)

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