



**MEMORANDUM TO PARLIAMENT FOR RATIFICATION OF THE PLAN OF
COOPERATION BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE
STATE OF ISRAEL AND THE MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE
DEVELOPMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA**

Background Information

The potential and contribution of the fisheries sector to the economic growth, poverty reduction and food security in Ghana cannot be under estimated. The fisheries sector provides livelihood to about 10% of the population and accounts for 60% of animal protein consumed in Ghana

Although Ghana has significant and valuable fish stocks and a strong tradition and culture of fishing, these fish resources are heavily over exploited and the sector's profitability has been declining. The current production level of fish is estimated at 440,000 metric tons per year. This level still leaves a deficit in excess of over 460,000 metric tons which is made up for through fish imports valued at over US\$ 200 million.

There is high expectation that aquaculture can contribute immensely to making up for the deficit between fish demand and import in medium to long-term. This expectation is premised on Ghana's endowment with landscape, soils with high water-holding capacity, brackish and fresh water bodies that provide prospects for aquaculture development.

In spite of these prospects, the sector is bedeviled with several challenges constraining the desirable development of the Aquaculture sub-sector. The constraints include lack of financial, technological, human and other resources. Hence the need for support in these challenges areas to maximize Ghana potential in aquaculture.

Background and Nature of the Cooperation

Technical Cooperation between Ghana and the State of Israel was signed in Accra on the 25th May, 1962 and it came into force on 17th June, 1963. The Agreement which is still in force covers various fields including Agriculture. A copy is attached marked "Appendix I".

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In line with the Agreement of the 1962 Technical Cooperation, the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development of the Republic of Ghana and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel have agreed to cooperate in the areas of fisheries and aquaculture.

To this end, on 5th November, 2006, the two countries signed (in Jerusalem) a Plan of Cooperation in the various fields of aquaculture and fisheries research and development. The Plan of Cooperation includes: establishment of Aquaculture Enterprises in the Private Sector determined by the interests of the two countries; and management of water resources, ground water protection and purification of recycled water for aquaculture purposes and the development of irrigation methods. Specifically, the Cooperation entails:

- Human resource development and capacity building;
- Technological transfer and assistance; and
- Identification of research and development topics of mutual interest.

A similar Plan of Cooperation in Aquaculture was again signed in Accra on 7th September, 2009 between the then Ministry of Food and Agriculture of the Republic of Ghana which had responsibility for the fisheries sector and the Foreign Ministry of Israel.

The Agreement is however yet to be ratified by the Parliament of Ghana for implementation. The cooperation agreement is to last for 2 years but subject to further renewal/ extension.

Justification for the Cooperation

Ghana is a significant fish consumption country with at least 60% of its animal protein coming from fish with per capita fish consumption of between 23-25kg being higher than the world's average of 13kg. This still leaves a deficit of 50% which is met through import of about US\$200 annually.

Aquaculture has been identified as a sustainable means to bridge this gap and salvage the country from the huge import. In this regard, the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development has launched the Ghana National Aquaculture Development Plan - a blue print to accelerate the development of fisheries sector in the next five years. The implementation of the plan is estimated to cost US\$ 85million with the medium term objective of increasing the production of farmed fish from 10,200 metric tons in 2010 to 100,000 metric tons by the end of 2016. The long term objective is to contribute significantly to improvements in production, marketing,

environmental sustainability and social acceptability of Ghana's commercial fish farm enterprises and related aquaculture value chain from broodstock production, fingerling production and transportation, fish feed production and sales; through harvesting, preservation and processing to marketing.

Achievement of the objectives of the Aquaculture Development Plan is highly dependent on human capacity and technology development and continuous research which also forms integral part of the Cooperation. The ratification of the Plan of Cooperation between Ghana and the State of Israel will, therefore, be opportune to accelerate the development of the requisite critical human resources to champion aquaculture development in the country. Additionally, Israel has a number of technological packages in aquaculture that can be transferred to the country to boost the sub-sector. Moreover, the collaboration in research and development, would enable Ghana take advantage of the advances Israel has made in the Aquaculture subsector. This will enable Ghana to develop the capacity to culture other species of fish and other aquatic organisms both for local consumption and export.

It is envisaged that implementation of the Cooperation will aid the rectification of identified challenges such as:

- i. Insufficient availability of fish feed and seed;
- ii. Inadequate involvement of private sector in the development of aquaculture industry;
- iii. Weak human resources base reflected in the lack of appropriate skills or trained persons at the different levels of the aquaculture sub-sector;
- iv. Lack of effective systems including personnel, tools and mechanisms for technology transfer;
- v. Absence of an in-country research agenda that is responsive to the needs of the aquaculture subsector; and
- vi. Environmental sustainability challenges.

Financial Impact

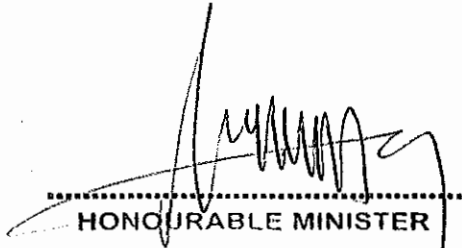
The arrangements in the cooperation Plan requires each country to meet her obligations through annual budgets. Where necessary, provision is also made for mobilizing funds from International financial sources for specific projects reference to Article 3 of the Agreement.

Conclusion

Given the numerous challenges to increasing Ghana's fish production and also bridge the gap between demand and supply, it is the considered view of the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development that the proposed Plan of Cooperation between Ghana and Israel will go a long way to enable Ghana benefit from the experiences and expertise of Israel in the area of Aquaculture development.

Parliament is, therefore, respectfully being invited to consider and ratify the said Agreement pursuant to Article 75 of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana.

Respectfully submitted.



HONOURABLE MINISTER
MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND
AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT
P. O. BOX GP 630, ACCRA - MAIN

HON. HANNY-SHERRY AYITTEY
MINISTER FOR FISHERIES AND
AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT

16. FEBRUARY, 2015

PLAN OF COOPERATION
BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL
AND
THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA
IN THE FIELD OF AQUACULTURE

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The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel and the Ministry of Food and Agriculture of the Republic of Ghana, hereinafter referred as the "Participants".

Recalling the Agreement on Technical Co-Operation between the State of Israel and the Republic of Ghana, 25 May, 1962, and in particular Article 1 thereof;

Guided by the desire to develop mutually advantageous cooperation in the fields of fisheries and aquaculture;

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The participants shall encourage direct cooperation between interested institutions of the two countries in various fields of aquaculture and fisheries research and development and the establishment of aquaculture enterprises in the private sector taking into consideration the interests of the two countries within the limits of the Participants respective available budgets.

Article 2

The cooperation shall cover the following fields:

1. Human resource development and capacity building.
2. Technological transfer and assistance.
3. Identification of research and development topics of mutual interest.

Article 3

The Participants may examine the possibilities of mobilizing international or any other financial sources for the implementation of the joint programs of cooperation.

Article 4

The Participants shall exchange information on congresses and symposia with international participation, dealing with aquaculture and fisheries, which will take place in their respective countries, and shall promote the participation of one Participant at the international event held in the other Participant country. The financial and other provisions will be agreed upon through diplomatic channels.

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Article 5

The Participants may cooperate in the areas of management of water resources, ground water protection, and purification of recycled water for aquaculture purposes and the development of irrigation methods.

Article 6

During the course of this Plan of Cooperation the Israeli side will send one (1) expert twice a year from the field of fisheries and aquaculture, for a period of up to 12 days.

Article 7

For the purpose of implementing the Plan of Cooperation, the competent authorities responsible for the cooperation activities shall be:

For the State of Israel, Israel's National Agency for International Development Cooperation – MASHAV, in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

For the Republic of Ghana, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

Article 8

1. The present Plan of Cooperation shall be based on the principle of reciprocity.
2. This Plan of Cooperation does not exclude the realization of other exchanges in the fisheries and aquaculture fields.
3. The Participants agree that all initiatives mentioned in this Plan of Cooperation shall be carried out within their sphere of competence and within the limits of the funds allocated in their respective annual budgets.
4. All activities and exchanges realized under this Plan of Cooperation shall be implemented in accordance with the law of the Participants.
5. Any differences that might arise in the course of this Plan of Cooperation shall be settled through diplomatic channels.
6. This Plan of Cooperation can be amended or modified by mutual consent of the participants. The amendments or modifications shall be made in writing.

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Article 9

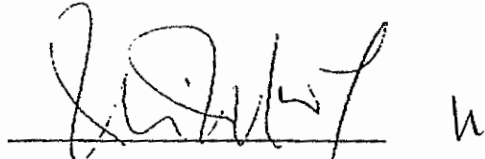
This Plan of Cooperation shall come into force on the date of its signature.

The Plan of Cooperation shall be valid for a period of two years. Both Participants may mutually agree, subject to availability of funds, its extension. Any Agreement on the extension of this Plan of Cooperation shall be made in writing

Signed in Accra on September 7, 2009, which corresponds to the 18 of the month of Elul 5769, in two original copies in the Hebrew and English languages, both texts being equally authentic.



For the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the State of Israel



For the Ministry of Food and Agriculture
of the Republic of Ghana

In case of reply the
number and date of this
letter should be quoted

SECRET



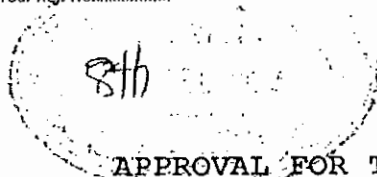
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
P.O. BOX 1627
ACCRA
TEL: 0302-201001/2

My Ref. No. OPTCA. 25

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Your Ref. No.

FREEDOM AND JUSTICE

28TH NOVEMBER, 2014

APPROVAL FOR THE RATIFICATION OF THE PLAN OF COOPERATION
BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE STATE OF
ISRAEL AND THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE OF THE
REPUBLIC OF GHANA IN THE FIELD OF AQUACULTURE.

At its Twenty-Eighth Meeting held on Thursday, 27th November, 2014, Cabinet considered the above-mentioned Memorandum submitted by the Minister for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development.

2. The Memorandum invited Cabinet to grant approval for the ratification by Parliament of the Plan of Cooperation in the field of Aquaculture between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel and the Ministry of Food and Agriculture of the Republic of Ghana signed on 7th September, 2009 in Accra.
3. Cabinet approved the Memorandum for Parliament's consideration.
4. I shall be grateful if you could take requisite action on the decision by Cabinet.


ROGER K. ANGSOMWINE
SECRETARY TO THE CABINET

THE HON. MINISTER FOR FISHERIES AND
AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT

cc: The Chief of Staff
Executive Secretary to H.E. the President
Secretary to H.E. the Vice President

